片思い、両思い、ウラコイ。

2

Uramikoi,Koi,Uramikoi.

秋タカ

ウラミコイ、コイ、ウラミコイ。

恨み来、恋、恨み恋。

恨み来、恋、恨み恋。

Uramikoi,Koi,Uramikoi.

秋タカ

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恨み来、恋、恨み恋。

ウラミコイ、コイ、ウラミコイ。

興味を持ってはいけない鼠には

興味を持った猫がたどる運命は？

Twitter限定
2巻を先取りで読んじゃおう！

「恨み恋。」2巻の一番最初の話、
第4話が読めちゃいます～。

1巻を読んでくれた方は気になる続きに、
まだの方はここから入って1巻も☆

そして、コミックス2巻は
2015年2月21日（土）
発売予定です！

CHAPTER 4: THE CAT THAT MET THE RAT

秋タカ

WHAT ARE YOU GETTING SCARED FOR NOW? WE'VE ALREADY COME THIS FAR LIKE THIS.

ARE YOU SCARED?

HE... HEY, ARE WE REALLY GOING IN LIKE THIS...?

I-... I-I-I-I... I'M... NOT SCA-

HEY!

IDIOT... DON'T MOVE SO MUCH...

TWO DAYS BEFORE NATSUHO SHOWED UP AT THE NEKUNI FAMILY HOUSE

AND CAME FACE-TO-FACE WITH GOICHI NEKUNI.

...BUT...

I KNOW THAT I'M SHY... AND THIS LOOKS LIKE A PLACE WITH A LOT OF PEOPLE, AND I REALLY DON'T WANT TO GO INSIDE...

BUT IF YOU'RE IN YOUR CAT FORM, YOU SAY YOU'RE SCARED OF GETTING CAUGHT UP IN SOMETHING LIKE TERRITORY WARS, SO WE HAD TO GO WITH THIS...

IF YOU'RE IN YOUR HUMAN FORM, YOU SAY YOU'RE SCARED OF OTHER HUMANS,

YE... YEAH, THIS DOES MAKE ME LOOK LIKE JUST AN ORDINARY PET CAT, BUT...

WHY...!?

HEY, DON'T TALK SO LOUDLY!

Do you want other people to realize that you're a Yokai?

THIS APPEARANCE IS SO HUMILIATING FOR ME...

DO... DON'T WORRY SO MUCH...

WH... WHAAAAT!?

ALRIGHT, PREPARE YOURSELF.

I... I GUESS THERE'S NO CHOICE...

YEAH... THAT'S... TRUE...

BESIDES, I CAN'T BE THE ONE TO BUY THEM, SO YOU JUST HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT.

BETRAYAL

WHY? WHY IS SHE MAKING SMALL TALK WITH ME? DOES SHE THINK SHE KNOWS ME? WHAT'S GOING ON?

Not listening

Machine gun talk

HE...

HE... HELP...

"NO"

ASSAILANT

ALRIGHT THEN, WE'LL START OFF WITH BUYING SOME OUTERWEAR.

GET IT FAST, GET OUT OF HERE. GET IT FAST, GET OUT OF HERE. GET IT FAST, GET OUT OF HERE. GET IT FA-

It's my first time being in a store for women's clothes.

Hmm...

ガチ

ガチ

Can't get out of here

SHATTER

Can't get it fast

WONDERFUL WEATHER WE'RE HAVING, DON'T YOU THINK?

WEL-COME!

スス

ほぇ

WHY YOOO-OOOO-OUUU...

OH MY, IT'S ADORABLE! TRY MATCHING IT WITH THIS OUTER YADA YADA YADA

OH? THAT LOOKS SURPRISINGLY GOOD ON YOU! WHAT DO YOU THINK, MA'AM?

スス

Filled with interest

I WANT TO GO HOME.

ARE YOU COMING BACK FROM SCHOOL? ISN'T IT COLD, JUST WEARING A SHIRT LIKE THAT? HERE, WHAT I'M WEARING IS FROM THE NEW LINE THIS SEASON, AND THERE ARE OTHER COLORS, TOO! HERE, TRY—

THE FORCED CAT

D-Don't open it yet... I-I-I'm not done... waaaah!

Awah!

TRY THIS NEXT!

HERE, NEXT.

What?

'KAY, NEXT.

...?

What?

What?

Wait a second, I should just stop changing and that'll put an end to this.... what?

WHAT!?

Thi... this doesn't look good on me... and it's embarrassing...

That's enough... you don't need to throw clothes at me anymore...

HOW ABOUT THIS? MAYBE THIS'LL LOOK GOOD ON YOU?

EXCUSE ME, MA'AM? DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ELSE THAT YOU THINK WOULD MATCH HER WELL?

SHE'S SULKING.

I hate you
I hate you
I hate you
I hate you
I hate you

NEXT... UH OH.

"THAT"

I CAN'T GO IN, SO DO YOUR BEST...!

SO WE'RE FINALLY GOING TO GO GET *THAT*... WI... WILL I REALLY HAVE TO GO BY MYSELF...?

BUT THE PEOPLE HERE START TALKING TO ME FOR NO REASON. I'M SCARED...

トホ...

WE... WELL, IT'D BE EMBARRASSING IF HE CAME IN WITH ME...

トホ...

WE... WELL, IT'D BE A LIE IF I SAID I HAVE *NO* INTEREST... BUT...

BU... BUT I'M SURPRISED... I THOUGHT YOU'D SAY YOU'RE INTERESTED AND COME IN WITH ME...

THAT'S TRUE.

IF I SHOW INTEREST AND LOSE MYSELF, IT WOULDN'T BE SURPRISING IF I GOT ARRESTED.

LIMIT

BUT YOU STILL SEEMED TO TRY OUT THOSE NEW CLOTHES ANYWAY.

N... NO!

SORRY, I GOT CARRIED AWAY...

I WAS TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF.. I MEAN,

I WAS... FORCED TO DO IT... THAT'S ALL...

...IT'S BECAUSE I... NEVER TRIED WEARING SOMETHING CUTE...

...I SEE.

NO!

THEN THERE'S A CUTE STORE NEXT DOOR, SO LET'S—

SELF-CONTROL

YEAH...

I'M GLAD YOU WERE ABLE TO BUY IT.

The staff there were nice

I'm so curious!

Oh I wonder if there are any new books out

That store wasn't there last time I was here I wonder what they have

NA...

NA...

I THOUGHT HE'D GO HOPPING FROM ONE STORE TO THE NEXT... IS HE NOT DOING THAT FOR MY SAKE...?

CREEPING DANGER

ALRIGHT...

AL...

I... I CAN'T GET HIM ARRESTED, AND I HAVE TO CHANGE MY UN... UNDERWEAR TO TRY THEM OUT...

WELCOME!

HE... HERE I GO—

Should we call the police?

That guy over there's been staring at underwear for a long time

OH, COME ON.

ESCAPE: IMPOSSIBLE

AKAYA...!? WHY ARE YOU HERE?
Can't escape
SO... SORRY, SHE WAS SO CUTE I COULDN'T HELP IT...!
I'M HERE WITH MY FRIENDS AND I WENT TO THE TOILE... I MEAN, I HAD SOME ERRANDS I NEEDED TO TAKE CARE OF BY MYSELF

SYSTEMATIC PHENOMENON

OH CRAP! THIS IS FROM THAT UNDERWEAR SHOP! NO, AS LONG AS SHE DOESN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT'S INSIDE...

OH, YOU'RE HERE SHOPPING TOO, KYOICHI-SAN?

YOU SHOP THERE, TOO!?

OH, WHERE HAVE I SEEN THAT LOGO ON THAT BAG BEFORE...?

Erm, let's see

THAT FRESH STYLE LOOKS REALLY GOOD ON YOU!

O... OH? AKAYA, ARE THOSE CLOTHES NEW?

CRAP, I HAVE TO CHANGE THE TOPIC...

EMERGENCY ESCAPE

?

THIS IS BAD! THIS IS REALLY BAD!!

WA-WAIT, THAT'S BAD! IF YOU RETURN TO YOUR NORMAL FORM, SHE'LL FIND OUT YOU'RE THE HATEFUL CAT...

WHA-WHAT? WH-WHY? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

A... AKAYA! THERE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE HERE, SO LET'S GO SOMEWHERE MORE PRIVATE, OKAY?

It's a little kitty

What is that? It's so cute!

ナ…

-3

ニャー

What was that roar?

Looks really good on you

!!?

THIS ISN'T ANY BETTER!

I can't get out!

I can't move!

MOTIVATED OX

ぱお

IT LO...

LOOKS... GOOD... ON ME..?

YEAH.

I've only seen you in your school uniform recently.

I HAVE TO SAY SOMETHIN' TO KEEP THIS GOOD VIBE GOIN'..!

OH... OH NO, HERE WE GO, THIS IS MY CHANCE..!

THAT TOTALLY KILLED THE MOOOOD!

OH...

OKAY!

NOO OOO OOO OOO OO!

TH... THEN I'LL CHANGE EVERY DAY SO MY CLOTHES ARE FRESH...!

LOST CHILD

DING DONG DING DOOONG

Clawed out

OH NO, NOW I'VE DONE IT... I'M SEPARATED FROM HIM TOO, WHAT DO I DO...?

I have to apologize

UH... UM, CALLING OUT TO THE LOST CHILD.

A... ARE YOU SURE YOU JUST WANT ME TO SAY THIS...?

?

PLEASE COME TO THE INFORMATION KIOSK RIGHT AWAY.

NATSUHO-CHAN, WHO JUST MOVED FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE.

I... I... I HATE YOOO-OUUUU...

CAN YOU ADD "SHY" TO THE DESCRIPTION?

S-SIR, THAT'S TOO MUCH...

SPEED IS OF THE ESSENCE

I'LL GO GET HER! BYE!

UH... UM, OH NOOOO! I LEFT HER BEHIIIIND!

O... OH NO!! WHERE'S NACCHAN?

OH, SHOULD I COME WITH YOU?

No, it's okay.

LOOKS GOOD...

...

LET'S GO CLOTHES SHOPPING! LET'S GO!

HUH?

Didn't we just go?

OH HEY, AKAYA, YOU SURE TOOK YOUR TI...

HEY, MOMMY! LOOK!
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE THE INFORMATION KIOSK IS TO BEGIN WITH...
FIRST FLOOR
UNTIL CLOSING TIME..?
WHAT DO I DO TILL STAY SEPARATED FROM HIM...
まや…

SO YOU DID KNOW WHERE THE KIOSK WAS.

I FIGURED YOU DIDN'T, SO I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU.

OH, THERE YOU ARE.

SO CLOSE!

SEE, RIGHT THERE.

...? WHERE THE KIOSK... WAS?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

EXCUSE US.

OH, YOU FOUND HER? THAT'S GREAT!

KOBAYASH-SAN, YOU CAN'T JUST ASSUME THEY'RE PLAYING A..

PLEASE DON'T PLAY PRANKS WITH THE INTERCOM!

OH, WAIT, ISN'T THAT GIRL IN MIDDLE SCHOOL?

UM, UH...

BUT REMEMBER? WE RECENTLY HAD A MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT PULL A PRANK ON...

IT'S ALRIGHT.

THIS MIGHT BE MY FIRST TIME LOOKING AT A CAT EAR FROM THIS CLOSE...

ピク

ピク

ピク

NATSU...?

HEY, THEY'RE GONE, NATSUHO...

WHAT AR-

WH-

AH

AH

AH

NYAH

...WAH?

WAH-

OH, SORRY, I...

WH... WHAT'S THIS? THIS IS SO FUN...

WAH-

OH-OWAH-WAH-WAH-WAH?

OW!

OW! OW!

WHAT'S WRONG, NA-

AHHHHHHHH!!

AWAAAAAHH!?

Triple cat punch!

WA... WAIT... NATSUHO...

THAT'S NOT THE BIGGEST ISSUE HERE!

I FEEL SO GOOD HAVING MY EARS... I MEAN,

WHY... WHY DID I...

SO YOU DID KNOW WHERE THE KIOSK WAS.

WHY DID I FEEL SO RELIEVED BACK THEN...?

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE THE INFORMATION KIOSK IS TO BEGIN WITH

WE COULD HAVE JUST WENT HOME SEPARATELY, SO WHY DID I WAIT...?

AND I HATE HIM SO MUCH FOR KISSING ME.

I CAME HERE TO HATE HIM.

SO WHY...

I DEFINITELY HATE HIM.

5

I'M THE HATEFUL CAT, A YOKAI,

WHY DID I HELP OR THANK SOMEONE I HATE,

WHY DID I SHOW INTEREST IN SOMEONE I HATE,

BUT MY-BODY MOVES WITHOUT MY CONTROL.

OR BECOME AFRAID OF BEING HATED BY HIM?

OR LOSE MYSELF AND GO ON A RAMPAGE?

HAHN...

SO YOU'RE THE CURRENT HATEFUL CAT.

WILL I BE ABLE TO BELIEVE IN MYSELF?

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS FROM NOW ON,

CHAPTER 5

THERE MUST BE SOME WAY I CAN REPAY YOU!

THANK YOU SO MUCH...!

THERE... WE GO.

NO, IT'S ALRIGHT, SIR. IT WAS JUST CARRYING SOME STUFF.

Your back hurts, doesn't it?

NO, I CAN'T POSSIBLY BE SO RUDE AS TO NOT SHOW GRATITUDE TO THE HEAD OF THE NEKUNI FAMILY...!

THE TWELVE FAMILIES ARE THE PROTECTORS OF THIS TOWN, SO IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO...!

NO, PLEASE...!

And you'll hurt your back again if you keep doing that

NO, NO...! PLEASE, YOU HAVE TO TAKE SOME OF OUR HOMEGROWN VEGETABLES...!

I ENDED UP TAKING A DRIED PERSIMMON...

Then I'll take that shriveled-up thing over there

HEY, THIS IS GOOD.

I'M A USELESS FAILURE OF A HEAD.

BUT WHEN IT REALLY MATTERED, I WAS JUST A COWERING RAT THAT COULDN'T DO ANYTHING.

PEOPLE THANK ME JUST BECAUSE I'M THE HEAD,

BEING TREATED WITH RESPECT WHEN I'VE DONE NOTHING IS WORSE THAN BEING DISRESPECTED.

...AND THAT'S WHY

THE CAT WAS CHASED OUT OF THE TOWN BY THE GOD,

I FEEL BAD FOR THE LITTLE CAT...

ALL IT DID WAS BE FOOLED BY THE RAT...

OH...

AND IT WAS CONSUMED BY HATE AND BECAME A YOKAI.

UMMM...

OH...? WHAT'S WRONG?

I WONDER WHAT IT'S LIKE.

IF THE CAT FROM THE ANCIENT FOLK TALE DOES EXIST,

LET'S SEE... ALL THE WAY OVER THERE...

IN THE MOUNTAINS, MAYBE.

HM? OH...

HEY, WHERE'S THE CAT NOW?

WOULD IT HATE ME?

CHAPTER 5:
THE CAT THAT DOESN'T HUNT THE RAT,
AND THE RAT THAT CHASES THE CAT.

WHAT IS... THIS...?

DIDN'T YOU... GO BACK HOME...?

WOULD IT LET ME

FULFILL MY RESPON-SIBILITY AS THE HEAD?

SAY SOMETHING...

HE'S... DEAD...

NATSUHO...!

NATSUHO...!

...AH...

IS GOING...

WHAT...

NATSUHO...?

...!

STOP...

WAIT...!

WHERE ARE YOU TRYING TO GO...?

.....

SHE'S TREMBLING...

COUGH

HACK

HE'S ALIVE!? WAS HIS CUT ON THE NECK NOT TOO DEEP!?

OLD MA...

.....

.....!

...URP...

A... ARE YOU...

.....!?

YEAH... I'M FINE.

SO YOU CAN TALK AFTER ALL...

SOMEONE...

AN AMBULANCE... DAMN IT, I FORGOT MY PHONE AGAIN...!

OLD MAN, I'M GONNA CALL SOMEONE, SO JUST HANG TIGHT THERE...!

..YEAH.

I NEED TO LET HER GO... AND THEN MAYBE MAKE THIS INTO A SCENE WHERE IT'S ONLY HIM...?

IF THEY SEE THIS SITUATION, THERE'S NO DOUBT SHE'D GET ARRESTED.

...WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HER IF OTHER PEOPLE COME HERE...?

I DID TELL HIM THAT I WISHED HE WERE DEAD, BUT...

BUT IF IT TAKES TOO LONG, HE'LL DIE.

I CAN'T JUST WATCH HIM DIE!

GET OUT OF MY FACE.

I DON'T NEED HELP FROM A FAILURE.

EVEN AT A TIME LIKE THIS...

.....

YOU STILL... HATE ME THAT MUCH...?

EVEN WHEN YOU'RE... IN THAT SORRY STATE...

.....

GOICHI-SAMAAAA?

!

HE TOLD ME JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO THAT HE'D BE IN THE TEA ROOM...

GOICHI-SAMAAAA?

WHERE ARE YOU, SIR?

GOICHI-SAMA WAS...!!!!

SO- SOMEONE! PHONE!! CALL AN AMBULANCE!

HAS SOMETHING DISPLEASED YOU AGAIN, SIR...?

JH... UM, GOICHI-SAMA...

.....

KNOCKED THE SLIDING DOOR DOWN AND LET PEOPLE KNOW WHERE I AM BEFORE HE LEFT...

...THAT IDIOT

LOOKS LIKE WE WERE ABLE TO ESCAPE WITHOUT BEING NOTICED...

AND THAT'S WHY YOU'RE A FAILURE, YOU IDIOT.

SATO-SAN

SATO-SAN, I'M COUNTING ON YOU...

YOU KNOW THAT I MIGHT HAVE ATTACKED YOUR GRANDFATHER...

WHY... DID YOU SAVE ME...?

WHY...?

I KNOW YOU'RE NOT THE KIND OF PERSON WHO CAN ATTACK SOMEONE TO THE POINT OF NEAR DEATH,

SO I JUST WENT WITH MY INSTINCT.

I MIGHT HAVE ACCUSED YOU, BUT...

IF YOU HAD A SMUG FACE THAT LOOKED LIKE "HAH! LOOK AT WHAT I DID!" THEN...

HERE, STAND UP.

WE NEED TO FIGURE OUT WHAT WE...

I'M NEVER GOING TO...

SEE... YOU... AGAIN...

DON'T COME NEAR ME...

OW...!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, NATSU...?

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN...

NATSU...?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN...

YOU'LL NEVER SEE ME AGAIN...?

HOW CAN HE SEE THAT SITUATION...

AND STILL TRUST ME...?

OH YEAH, THERE WAS THAT THING BACK IN GRADE SCHOOL, RIGHT?

SOME GIRL GOT CAUGHT ,N HER HATE AND HAD TO GET A COUPLE OF STITCHES?

SHE PROBABLY LOST HERSELF IN HATE AGAIN OR SOMETHING. SHE *IS* THE HATEFUL CAT

I DJNNO.

DID NEKOGAZAKI DO SOMETHING AGAIN?

ナナ…

EVERYONE WHO WORKS IN THE MOUNTAINS APPARENTLY BELIEVES THAT, AND THEY ALL AVOID THAT FAMILY AT ALL COSTS..

THERE'S A SUPERSTITION THAT WHENEVER SOMETHING BAD HAPPENS IN THE MOUNTAIN, IT'S BECAJSE OF AN EV.L YOKAI THAT LIVES THERE.

HJH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MISFORTUNE?

OH YEAH, I REMEMBER THAT WHEN THAT HAPPENED, MY PARENTS CAME TO THE SCHOOL AND DEMANDED THAT THEY'D MAKE THAT MISFORTUNE YOKAI LEAVE AND STUFF ..

N-NO...

LET ME SEE YOUR HANDS. ARE THEY HURT?

DON'T PICK THAT JP WITH YOUR BARE HANDS, THAT'S DANGEROUS...!

HEY NOW!

NEKOGAZAKI,

YOU SAID NEXT T.ME, BUT I... I DIDN'T .. BREAK..

UM... BU... BJT...

IF YOU CAN'T FIND THAT, JSE YOUR FOOT TO GATHER THEM IN A CORNER, AND THEN WRAP .T IN AN OLD RAG AND THROW IT AWAY... NO, THAT'D BE BAD MANNERS, WOULDN'T IT?

UH... OH... NO....

WE HAVE A BROOM AND A DUST PAN, SO NEXT T.ME YOU BREAK SOMETHING, YOU CAN USE THAT.

I KNOW YOU CAN'T CONTROL YOURSELF WHEN YOU'RE LOST IN HATE, SO I WON'T BLAME YOU,

BUT AT LEAST REFLECT ON WHAT YOU DID, OKAY?

THEY DIDN'T CARE ENOUGH TO DECIDE WHETHER TO BELIEVE ME OR NOT.

THESE PEOPLE WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME IF I SAID I DIDN'T DO IT.

IF WE TRY TO FIGURE OUT WHO DID IT, THAT KID MIGHT GET CAUGHT. IN HER HATE!

IF YOU BLAME HER, SHE'LL LASH OUT AT YOU IN HATE! I WANT NONE OF THAT!

EVERYONE KEPT THEIR MOUTHS SHUT, AND THAT WAS, THE END OF IT.

THEY JUST SWEPT EVERYTHING UNDER THE RUG BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T WANT TO BE INVOLVED.

JUST LET THE TEACHER ASSUME SHE DID IT AND NOTHING WILL HAPPEN! EVERYONE WINS!.

SO I JUST CLOSED MY EYES AND EARS.

I WAS FINE WITH THAT TOO,

I'M ALL ALONE.

I'D NEVER HAVE BEEN INVOLVED TO THE POINT WHERE I GOT ANNOYED.

I COULD HAVE EATEN WHAT I LIKED, LEFT WHEN I WANTED, AND WENT HOME WHEN I WANTED.

IF I'D JUST KEPT MY EYES SHUT, I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO TROUBLE MYSELF.

HA...

HA...

HAHA...

I COULD HAVE JUST HATED THE EVIL RAT IN MY IMAGINATION.

That's too big.

I'M SO... STUPID...

I...

I SHOULD HAVE... JUST...

KEPT TO... MYSELF...

ALL BY MYSELF...

INSTEAD OF COMING HERE... THAT WOULD'VE BEEN...

THERE YOU
AAAAREE!!!

BETTE-

DID I JUST SEE A GHOST!?

It had a face on the back of its head!

...

...

...

EEK!

RIIIIIGHT THEEEEERE

HOOOOLD IIIIIT

IS IT A YOKAI!?

YOKAI

HOOOOOOO

NAAAAAA

TSUUUUUUUU

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

AND YOU'RE SAYING YOU WON'T SEE ME AGAIN?

AND NOW YOU WANT TO LEAVE WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING TOO? HOW DARE YOU..

YOOOOOOV... JUST LEFT ALL OF A SUDDEN, AND THEN SHOWED UP WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING,

Oh, it's a human.

OH.

FORGOT →

FOR THE CLOTHES AND FOOD...?

TO BEGIN WITH, DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT YOU'D PAY ME BACK

YOU DIDN'T MEMORIZE MY ADDRESS, DID YOU.

SE-SEND YOU MONEY... THROUGH... THE MAIL AND...

I WAS... GOING TO SEND... YOU MONEY, JM,

OH?

UH...

I ABSO-LUTELY WON'T FORGIVE YOU.

I WON'T FORGIVE YOU.

YOU MAKE EXCUSE AFTER EXCUSE FOR YOURSELF, AND GOT EVEN RUDER SINCE THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU...

ゴゴゴ

ゴゴゴ

ゴゴゴ

WHA?

TAKE IT OUT.

GYAAAAAH! PERVERT!!

SO TAKE OUT YOUR BU... UM, NO WAIT, SHOW ME YOUR ASS!!!

I'LL LET YOU OFF THE HOOK WITH JUST A SPANKING.

SU... SURE, I HAVE TO APOLOGIZE FOR NOT PAYING HIM BACK, BUT...

WHA...? WHAT'S UP WITH HIM...!?

SHE RAN AWAY!?

ばー

ばー

ばー

OWAAAAAAH!!

WAAAAAAH!!

I SHOOK HIM O—

WAH, WAAAH!?

WAH, WAAAAAH!!

FUHA HAHA HA!!

YOU FOOL... I CAN SEE THROUGH YOUR EVERY MOVE...!!

IS HE ONE OF THOSE RAT YOKAI THAT CAN ALWAYS GET IN FRONT OF YOU OR SOMETHING!??

HOW...!?-I'M FASTER THAN HIM, SO HOW IS HE GETTING IN FRONT OF ME...!?

YOKAI

WELL ACTUALLY, NATSUHO ONLY CHOOSES THE ROADS WITH THE LEAST AMOUNT OF PEOPLE, SO IT'S EASIER THAN TAKING CANDY FROM A BABY IF YOU KNOW YOUR WAY AROUND THE CITY.

Too easy

AGH!

WHY...

THE CITY BARRIER...!

STOP.

WHY...

I CAN'T GET THROUGH BECAUSE I'M A YOKAI.

I'M REJECTED BECAUSE I'M A YOKAI!

WH...

WHY...

BECAUSE I'M A-YOKAI...

DOESN'T THAT HURT

YOUR HAND?

I CAN'T GET AWAY FROM HIM.

THERE'S NOTHING IN IT FOR YOU TO...

WHY ARE YOU GETTING SO INVOLVED WITH A YOKAI THAT JUST EXISTS TO HATE PEOPLE...?

WHY... DID YOU CHASE AFTER ME...?

...I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE HATED BY THE HATEFUL CAT.

DO I LOOK THAT CALCULAT-ING...?

I DON'T NEED ANYTHING IN RETURN TO GET INVOLVED.

WELL, I WASN'T GOING TO TELL THIS TO HER, BUT...

UMM...

I GUESS... THAT'S TRUE... WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY...

HMM...

...WELL...

BUT THAT'S NOT MY ONLY REASON...

BEFORE, I SAID I WANTED TO BE HATED SO I COULD KICK MY OLD MAN OFF OF HIS HIGH HORSE... OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT,

IF THAT WERE TO HAPPEN, EVEN A CORNERED RAT LIKE ME COULD DO SOMETHING FOR HIS FAMILY.

I THOUGHT THE ONLY THING THAT I MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO WAS TO BE THE TARGET OF THE HATEFUL CAT'S HATE.

I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING, EVEN THOUGH I WAS THE HEAD.

...I SEE.

BUT THAT WAS ACTUALLY...

WHEN I FIRST MET HIM, I THOUGHT HE WAS SOME WEIRDO, LAUGHING AS HIS LIFE WAS IN DANGER,

SORRY, I PROVOKED YOU TOO MUCH.

YOU COULD SAY THAT I WANTED TO BE HATED SO THAT I'D FEEL BETTER.

3

BOTH OF MY REASONS ARE PRETTY SELFISH, AND...

THEY'RE KINDA EMBARRASSING REASONS, BUT...

HMM... WELL, BASICALLY,

BUT BECAUSE OF THAT, IF YOU ASK ME IF I WANT TO BE HATED OR NOT,

THE ANSWER IS THAT I WANT TO BE HATED.

WHAT I'M SAYING IS, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO'D GET SOMETHING OUT OF BEING HATED BY YOU.

BESIDES,

HE'S ONE OF THOSE GUYS WHO WOULDN'T DIE EVEN IF HE WERE KILLED.

WE DON'T KNOW IF HE'S DEAD.

IF HE DIED... I'D BE A MURDERING YOKAI, YOU KNOW...?

.....

I'VE ONLY BEEN WITH YOU FOR A LITTLE WHILE,

BUT I KNOW THAT YOU'RE A SHY SCAREDY-CAT WHO CAN'T DO ANYTHING ON YOUR OWN.

THERE'S NO WAY YOU'D BE ABLE TO KILL A PERSON, OR AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I THINK.

NO ONE TRIED TO UNDERSTAND ME.

I COULDN'T EVEN TRUST MYSELF.

NO ONE EVER TRUSTED ME BEFORE.

JWEEEH...

...UWEH...

U...

A...

JU...

HK...

START CRYING SO EASILY?

WHEN DID I

...I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING...

...

UM...

ARE YOU ALRIGHT NOW...?

AND WHEN I THOUGHT I MIGHT MURDER YOU TOO, I GOT SCARED.

THAT'S WHY I CAN'T KNOW FOR SURE IF I DID IT OR NOT, EVEN IF YOU TOLD ME I DIDN'T...

AND WHEN I CAME TO MY SENSES, YOU WERE THERE.

I ONLY REMEMBER UP UNTIL ENTERING THE NEKUNI HOUSE...

I COULDN'T TRUST MYSELF... TO BELIEVE THAT I DIDN'T DO IT.

AND I COULDN'T BELIEVE MYSELF TO BE INNOCENT IN SUCH A STATE.

I WAS OVERTAKEN BY MY IMPULSE AND LOST MY MEMORIES AFTER COMING HERE,

I WANT TO...
BELIEVE IN
MYSELF...

...BUT

YOU...
BELIEVED
IN ME...

...SO I
WANT TO,
TOO.

SO...
I WON'T
RUN AWAY
OR CLOSE
MY EYES
ANYMORE...!

HUH? YES IT IS.

THAT'S NOT TRUE...

BUT... YOU SAID I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING BY MYSELF..

OH, SHE'S ACTUALLY PRETTY UPSET.

SHUT UP...! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT ANYMORE...!

Like I can't do anything by myself?

THOSE ARE ALL INSULTS.

A... AND, YOU'RE HATEFUL...

YOU'RE HATEFUL, STUPID, DON'T THINK AHEAD, NOSY...

I... I KNOW YOU, TOO!

And you said hateful twice

Two

One

...

AND...

Stop adding more hatefuls.

YOU'RE HATEFUL... AND YOU'RE HATEFUL...

I... I STILL HAVE MORE, UM...

Seven

Eight

I...

I KNOW THAT... YOU'RE A SURPRISINGLY...

NICE GUY...

WHAT DID I JUST SAY...?

HUH... WHAT?

!?

THA... THANKS?

UM...

...?

WHAT THE...?

WHY DID SHE SAY SOMETHING SO EMBARRASSING TO ME...?

It's making me embarrassed

NATSUHO..!

IF YOU DIDN'T DO IT, THAT MEANS SOMEONE TRIED TO FRAME YOU BY CREATING THAT SITUATION.

THEN THERE'S ONLY ONE THING WE NEED TO DO...!

THIS BARRIER WON'T BE UNDONE UNTIL THE CULPRIT WHO ATTACKED THE OLD GEEZER IS CAUGHT.

A... ANYWAY, LET'S FIGURE OUT WHAT WE NEED TO DO...!

...!

LET'S CATCH THAT CULPRIT, NATSUHO!

YE... YEAH...!

..HE LOOKS REALLY INTO IT... OR, IT'S LIKE SCOUTING JUST SUITS HIM REALLY WELL...

Because he's a rat?

Still took the box

...WHA? WHA... WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM...?

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK, SO .F SOMEONE COMES BY, HIDE UNDER THIS CARDBOARD BOX!

See ya!

WELL THEN...! I'LL GO SCOUT THE AREA AND INVESTIGATE!

...IS HE STILL IN THE CITY, TOO...?

I DON'T KNOW IF HE'S THE CULPRIT... BUT HE'S THE ONE WHO LED ME TO THE HOUSE...

Still building the box

...LOOK FOR THE CULPRIT, HUH...

NGH!

I WAS TOO NAIVE.

AH!

WAIT, WHO... ARE YOU...?

I HESITATED AND DAWDLED...

SA...

NA...!?

I KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING, AND YET...

A... ARE YOU OKAY...!?

FURTHER-MORE,

I WAS A FOOL BEYOND SAVING FOR FEELING REL.EVED

THAT I DIDN'T HAVE TO TAKE ANY ACTION...!

AND MY FOOLISHNESS COST SOMEONE THEIR LIFE...!

GOICHI... NEKUNI-SAMA...

TOOK HIS LAST BREATH A SHORT WHILE AGO...

NO...

IT CAN'T BE...

AND...

AND... MY SISTER...

WHA...?

SEN-SAN IS...?

THE HEAD OF THE INJHARA FAMILY, IS NOW... IN A HOLDING CELL UNDERNEATH THE NEKJNI MAIN HOUSE...

AS A PRISONER...

I KNOW THAT MY SISTER WOULD DO NO SUCH THING.

HOWEVER, EVEN IF SHE IS VINDICATED... SHE WILL MOST LIKELY LOSE HER STATUS AS THE HEAD BECAUSE OF HER FAILURE TO HER RESPONSIBILITIES...

AND THAT SEN INUHARA IS ITS ACCOMPLICE.

THE NEKUNI FAMILY HAS DECIDED THAT THE HATEFUL CAT IS THE MURDER SUSPECT...

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERYTHING LIES SOLELY ON MY USELESS SELF...!

AND I WILL BE THE NEXT HEAD...

"YOKAI THAT BRING HARM UPON PEOPLE SHALL BE KILLED WITHOUT EXCEPTION."

I'M REACTING... TO HER HOSTILITY...!

THAT IS THE PRECEPT OF THE INUHARA FAMILY, WHO HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH ELIMINATING YOKAI THROUGHOUT THE GENERATIONS.

ACCORDING TO MY FAMILY'S PRECEPTS,

MY SWORD IS THE FANG THAT CHASES DOWN AND GNAWS THROUGH ITS PREY.

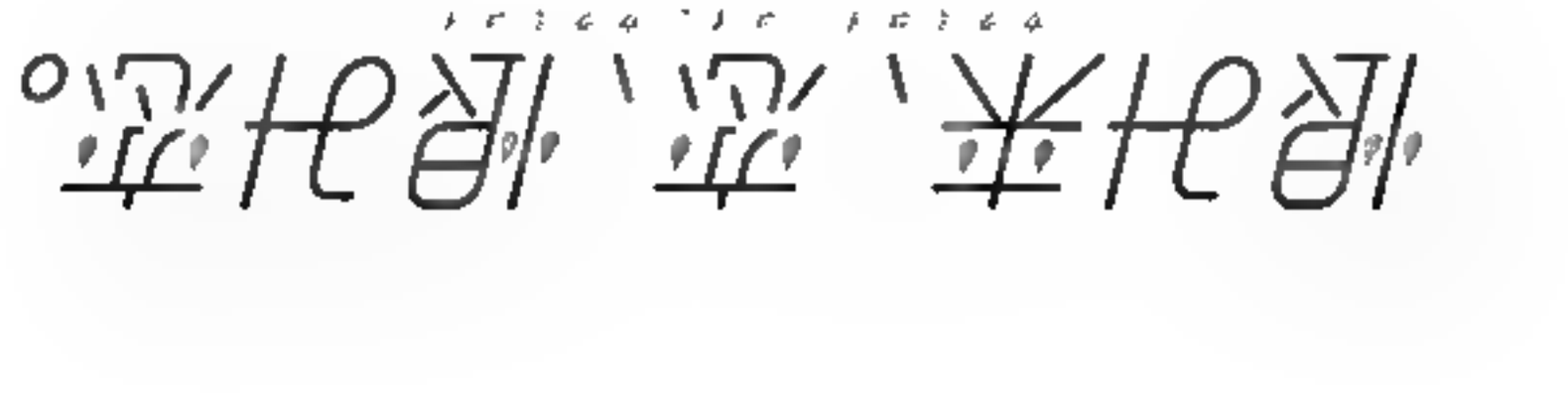
A FANG DOES NOT HESITATE...!

KILL THEM WITH YOUR HATE.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE KILLED,

IT'S TIME...

FOR YOKAI EXTERMI-NATION!



恨み来、恋

CHAPTER 6:

DOG
ELS ITS
SOLVE
BARES
FANGS,
THE CAT
WITHDRAWS
ITS CLAWS

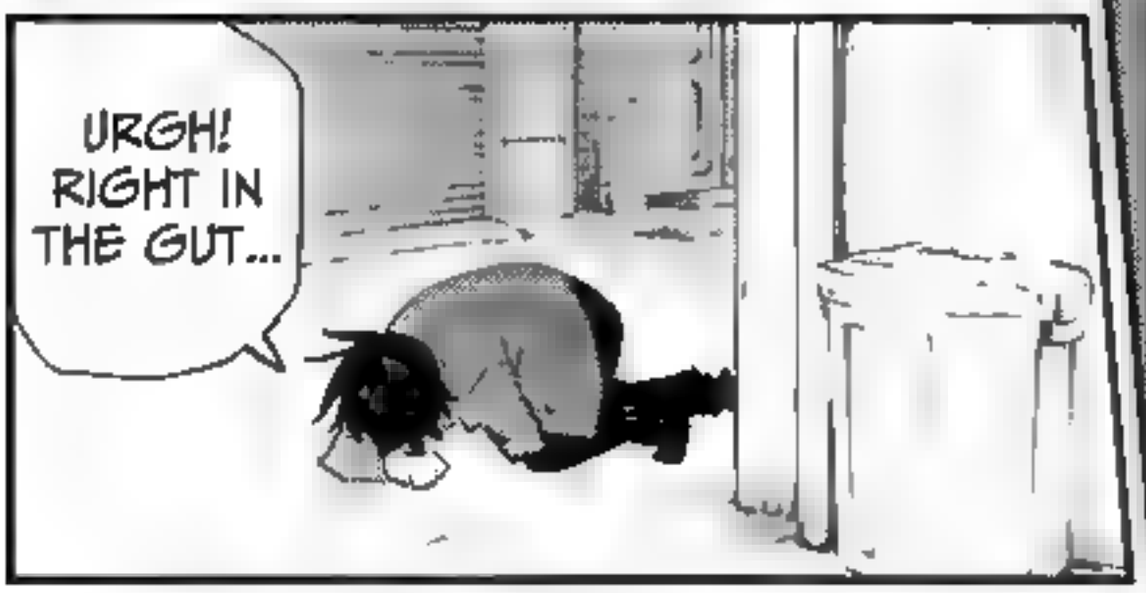
人(ひと)をかんだ犬(いぬ)は

好奇心

その気持ちは、恨みか、恋か――。

他の事に興味を持たず、子への恨みにまみれて育った　結構人見知りの猫ヶ崎夏歩。
何にでも興味を示し、理解しようとする猫の天敵である子国恭一。
敵対する関係の二人が、互いに抱く気持ちの正体は、恨みか。恋か。ラブコメは、好きと嫌いじゃ割り切れない。
そんな変則青春ラブコメディ第1巻です☆

「恨み来、恋、恨み恋。」Uramikokoiuramikoi!!　11月22日(土)発売!!



CHAPTER 6:
THE DOG STEELS ITS RESOLVE AND BARES ITS FANGS, AND THE CAT WITHDRAWS ITS CLAWS

……!!

I'VE HEARD STORIES OF THEM...!

SO THIS IS A MEMBER OF THE YOKAI EXTERMINATION SPECIALISTS, THE INUHARA FAMILY...!

THIS ALL HAPPENED BECAUSE OF ME...

AND SAVE MY SISTER...!

THEN AT THE VERY LEAST, I MUST CUT DOWN THE CULPRIT WITH MY OWN BLADE,

A FEW HOURS AGO

OH?

ﾅﾆ

ﾅﾆ

)))

KYAAAAAH!

WHAT'CHA DOOOIN'?

Gotchaaaaa!

I'LL CUT YOU DOWN IF YOU DO THIS AGAIN NEXT WEEK, YOU PERVERTED MONKEY!

I NEED TO GIVE YOU A WEEKLY CHECKUP TO MAKE SURE YOUR CHEST ISN'T SHRINKING, SACCHAN.

IS THIS ALL YOU WANTED TO DO!?

WH-WHAT DO YOU WANT? WHAT DO YOU WANT!?

They're bigger than ya'd expect

FALL UNIT TEST RESULTS

1: SASAMACHI, CHIE

2: KOMADA, TETSUO

3: BO

HMM.

GOTCHA.

INUHARA, SANA

38: KONOE, TAKAMA

OH, SO THIS WEEK IS ALL GOOD?

Alright!

YOU WERE AROUND TENTH LAST TIME, WEREN'T YA? THAT'S TOO BAD.

THERE WERE A TON OF APPLICATION PROBLEMS THIS TIME.

I'LL CUT YOU DOWN!!

SASAMACHI FAMILY HEAD

CHIE SASAMACHI

37: INUHARA, SANA

SANA-TH PLACE...

LOOK AT THAT!

PFF-HAHAHA! LOOK—

PFFT!

LOOKS LIKE I WIN AGA...

#THE NUMBERS 3 AND 7 CAN BE READ AS "SA" AND "NA."

BAHA-HAHHA-HAHAH!

WHEN YOU GET 38TH PLACE, ARE YOU GOING TO CHANGE YOUR NAME TO SAYA?

#THE NUMBER 8 CAN BE READ AS "YA."

YOU DID THIS ON PURPOSE, DIDN-AHA HAHAH! YOU'RE BRILLIANT!

DI-DID YOU DO THIS ON PURPO...

AHAHA-HAHAHA-HAHA!

WHY YOU!! IMMA TRUE KANSAI!! A TRUE KANSAI!! I EAT TAKOYAKI LIKE I EAT RICE!

FAKER!!?

SHUT UP!! YOU KANSAI-DIALECT FAKER!!

Flat-chest!!

Flat-chest!!

ALL YOU DO IS SPOUT STEREOTYPICAL NONSENSE, YOU FAKER!!!

GYAN!

'KAY. THAT'S ENOUGH.

AND YOU JUST SAID SOMETHING INSULTING TO ME TWICE, DIDN'T YOOOU!!?

EVEN ACTUAL DOGS AND MONKEYS DON'T FIGHT AS MUCH AS YOU DO.

CAN YOU MAKE YOUR RUCKJS SOMEWHERE OTHER THAN IN FRONT OF MY LIBRARY?

TORIDERA FAMILY HEAD
KEITARO TORIDERA

CHIE-CHAN.

SACCHAN.

SO WHICH OF YOU STARTED IT?

HEY, SENSEI, ,F YA KEEP HITT.N' OUR HEADS L.KE THAT, WE'LL LOSE BRAIN CELLS...

HMM. I SEE, I SEE.

PLEASE! IF WHAT YOU DID TO ME AS A GREETING WASN'T THE START OF EVERYTHING, I DON'T KNOW WHAT WAS...!!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO STARTED THE SCUFFLE, SACCHAN...!

YOU YA JUST ASKED!

SO WHICH OF YOU STARTED IT?

OH!

I WAS SUMMONED BY THE NEKUNI FAMILY JUST A SHORT WHILE AGO.

?

SPEAKING OF INTERESTING THINGS, SANA,

OH.

IF IT'S NOT SOMETHING I'M INTERESTED IN, I FORGET ABOUT IT AFTER THREE STEPS.

THEN DON'T ASK US TO BEGIN WITH...

I HEARD SEN GOT ARRESTED. HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP?

FUTAYO-SAMA ASKS FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE.

AND THAT WE SHOULD KEEP IT A SECRET FROM THE POLICE AND THE REST OF THE TWELVE FAMILIES AND TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING INTERNALLY.

What age is this?

SHE SAYS THE BETRAYAL OF A FOLLOWER WILL TARNISH THE HONOR OF THE NEKUNI FAMILY...

OH, WHAT I TOLD YOU JUST NOW IS SUPPOSED TO BE A SECRET, SO KEEP THAT TO YOURSELF.

EVEN IF SHE DID SHOW UP RIGHT AFTER HER ELDER BROTHER DIED,

WASN'T SHE THE ONE WHO RAN AWAY FROM THE FAMILY? THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO SAY TO HER...

SEN-CHAN, YOU'RE SO CALM, EVEN AT A TIME LIKE THIS.

I'M A WOMAN WHO ONLY KNOWS HOW TO FOLLOW ORDERS.

.....

.....

THEY'RE NOT TAKING ANY VISITORS UNTIL EVERYTHING'S BEEN HANDLED.

THERE'S NO USE GOING TO THE HOUSE.

SACCHAN,

I'LL LEND YOU A MONKEY'S HAND IF YOU WANT IT.

Did you hear everything?

OH, THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE KEPT A SECRET FROM THE OTHER FAMILIES.

.....

I wonder where she's going.

I'LL DECLINE THIS TIME.

ㄱㄱㄱ...

BUT IF I CAN CAPTURE THE CAT AND PROVE THAT MY SISTER HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT...!

MY SISTER WOULD NEVER HARM HER MASTER, GOICHI-SAMA.

BECAUSE I- KNEW THE CAT WAS IN THIS CITY AND DID NOTHING ABOUT IT.

IT'S MY FAULT.

I HAVE TO TAKE MY RESPONSIBILITY.

OTHERWISE, I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FACE MY SISTER EVER AGAIN...!!

I'LL KEEP PUSHING AND TAKE HER DOWN...!!

MY HEADACHE... IS GETTING WORSE...

……!!

...!? A CLAW...!?
IT'S SO TOUGH...!!! IS IT MATERIALIZED BY SOME-KIND OF YOKAI POWER...!?
MY BLADE CAN'T CUT THROUGH IT...

AGH!

.....!!

SHE CRASHED INTO THE CITY BARRIER...

.....!!

UAH...

!?

MY HEADACHE IS GETTING WORSE... FROM FACING THE INUHARA'S HOSTILITY...

ABOVE...!?

WHY?

WHY ARE YOU NOT FIGHTING BACK...!?

THE TIP OF YOUR SWORD IS WAVERING.

O-
OF-
OF-
YOU'RE THINKING OF SOMETHING ELSE, AREN'T YOU.
OF COURSE NOT...!
HM...
...YOU SEE RIGHT THROUGH ME, SISTER...
IS THAT SO...

I JUST...

I JUST THOUGHT THAT YOUR STANCE WAS SO RESOLUTE AND COOL, UNLIKE MINE...

ME ON THE OTHER HAND, I WAVER SO MUCH. NOT ONLY IN MY PERSONALITY, BUT MY SWORD AS WELL...

I FEEL SO PATHETIC...

...IS THAT HOW YOU SEE ME?

OF COURSE...! YOU'RE SO SURE OF YOURSELF AND SO COOL...

JUST LIKE MOTHER...

SANA, YOU'RE MUCH MORE LIKE FATHER THAN MOTHER.

YOU CARE ABOUT OTHERS AND WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND YOU SO MUCH THAT YOU WAVER.

SI... SISTER?

HM...?

THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU, SANA.

BUT SANA, I HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE THAT YOU'LL BECOME BETTER.

.....

WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, SISTER...!

I THINK A SLIGHT WAVERING IS GOOD...

BUT THIS IS A LITTLE TOO MUCH.

BUT THAT'S WHAT BROUGHT ABOUT THIS END RESULT.

SISTER..

THE INUHARA FAMILY HAS ME ALREADY,

SO TAKE YOUR TIME AND CATCH UP TO ME.

LEADING TO GOICHI-SAMA'S ASSASSINATION.

I WAVERED, AND SWEPT THE PROBLEM UNDER THE RUG.

AND PLACING MY PRECIOUS SISTER IN THIS PREDICAMENT...!!

I'M A WRETCHED FOOL...!!

I HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSI-BILITY...

AND...

THAT'S WHY...

IF SOMEONE AS HELPLESS AS ME IS GOING TO BE THE NEXT HEAD OF THE INUHARA FAMILY BY DEFAJLT...

THEN AT THE VERY LEAST...

OR ELSE, I CAN'T...

EVEN SAVE MY SISTER...!!

I HAVE TO BECOME LIKE MY SISTER, OR THE PREVIOUS GENERATION, MY MOTHER...

AAHG

AAHG

AH

AAGAH

...AH

I WON'T SHOW MERCY OR WAVER...

THAT'S WHY, LIKE MY SISTER AND MOTHER,

NGH...

AND CUT DOWN THIS YOKAI.

SANA!!

SE—
SENPA...?

WHY... ARE YOU ACTING LIKE THIS...?

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU...

I KNOW YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT... BUT SHE'S...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT... YOU HEARD BEFORE COMING HERE...

BUT LISTEN TO WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY...!

SA...

I'M SORRY, SENPAI...

SANA!!

I CAN'T HESITATE ANYMORE...!!

BUT...

AT LEAST LOOK AT WHO YOU'RE FIGHTING STRAIGHT IN THE FACE BEFORE YOU DO!!!

YOU HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO BELIEVE WHAT YOU WANT TO BELIEVE...

BUT IF YOU'RE GONNA PICK A FIGHT...

HER FACE...?

MY HEAD IS THROBBING.

A VOICE IS TELLING ME TO KILL HER IN HATE BEFORE I'M KILLED.

EVEN WHEN I COULDN'T BELIEVE IN MYSELF, HE BELIEVED IN ME.

HE BELIEVED IN ME.

BUT I CAN'T DO THAT,

SOMEONE IS TRYING TO KILL ME...

SO EVEN IF...

NO MATTER WHAT...

I WON'T BARE MY CLAWS,

WHAT...?

...?

.....

WHA...

GU...

SHE'S...

O...

OW...

WH... WHY WERE YOU...

HOW CAN YOU TRY TO PUNCH A GIRL IN THE FACE...

WASN'T IT?

THE FIGHT WAS BASICALLY OVER,

Wah, a ton of blood got on my face!

EVEN WHEN SHE COULD HAVE DIED, WHEN SHE WAS BEING BEATEN DOWN, SHE NEVER RAISED HER CLAWS...

...HER CLAWS DUG SO DEEP INTO HER OWN HANDS...

IT'S ALRIGHT... I...

...NO LONGER HAVE A DESIRE TO FIGHT.

GOOD...

HUH? YOU'RE JUST SAYING THAT *NOW*?

BE... BECAUSE, I WAS SHOWN SO MUCH HOSTILITY...

MY HATRED WAS OVERPOWERING, SO I WAS TRYING SO HARD TO...

THANKS FOR CONTROLLING YOURSELF.

SEE...

BE...

A...

I...

I HATE YOU... SO MUCH...

B-BE QUIET... YOU SEE...

I DIDN'T DO IT... FOR YOU OR ANYTHING...

YOU'RE HURT FROM HEAD TO TOE...

HUH?

SO I WANTED TO MAKE HER DIZZY AND TRY TO GET AWAY...

UM... I WAS HIT BY THE USHIGURA... AND IT MADE ME DIZZY...

I... I TOOK A SHOT STRAIGHT TO MY JAW... WHY DID YOU AIM FOR THE FACE...

:
!?

...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, YOU'RE DEFINITELY DIZZY...

IF YOU... TRY TO COPY AYAKA, IT'D JUST BE A LITTLE KITTY PUNCH...

PFFT...

…

BUT I...

THESE TWO WERE PAYING ATTENTION TO OTHERS,

WAS ANXIOUS AND JUST ASSUMED EVERYTHING...

SENPAI... MISS CAT...

I'M SORRY...

BUT THIS TIME...

SISTER... IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE WAVERING A LITTLE BIT LONGER.

I ACTED RASHLY...

I TRULY AM A FOOLISH PERSON...

IF YOU'LL FORGIVE ME,

I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY...!

OH,

BUT BEFORE THAT, CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING...?

I WILL MAKE AN EFFORT TO SEE AND UNDERSTAND WHO I'M DEALING WITH...!!

THIS TIME,

YE...

YEAH...!

A... ARE YOU TWO... LOVERS...?

UM... WELL...

.....

HUH? SURE.

I NEED TO KNOW THIS TO UNDERSTAND THE SITJATION...

HUH?

LO... LO-LO- LO-LO- LOVE- COVERS? GLOVERS? HOVERS? SHOVERS? LO-RO- RUBBERS...?

HUH?

LOVERS!??

恨み来、恋、恨み恋。

ウラミコイ　コイ、ウラミコイ

BUT SENPAI, YOU STILL BELIEVE THAT SHE'S INNOCENT?

...YEAH.

THAT'S RIGHT.

I THINK I BASICALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING...

SO SHE HAS NO MEMORIES OF WHAT HAPPENED, AND YOU CAN'T PROVE OR DISPROVE HER INVOLVEMENT IN THE MURDER...

...THEN I WILL

ALSO BELIEVE IN HER.

...I FELT IT AS I WAS FIGHTING HER.

MISS CAT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE A PERSON WHO WOULD CALLOUSLY TAKE SOMEONE'S LIFE.

...SO I'LL ALSO TRY TO BELIEVE.

SANA...

SENPAI, WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW...?

...FIRST, WE NEED TO CATCH THE CULPRIT WHO TRIED TO FRAME HER.

THEN...

I WILL BE AT YOUR SIDE...!

.....!

AND ABOVE ALL, I MUST ATONE FOR MY RUDENESS EARLIER...!

WE SHARE THE SAME GOAL.

YOU WANT TO CAPTURE THE CULPRIT IN ORDER TO AID MISS CAT, AND MY AIM IS TO CLEAR THE NAME OF MY SISTER.

CHAPTER 7: EVEN A WALKING DOG WILL EVENTUALLY ENCOUNTER A VILLAIN

I, SANA INUHARA...

WILL BE AT YOUR COMMAND, WITH MY LIFE ON THE LINE!

SANA...!

SO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

!

I DON'T THINK THAT'S THE REASON...

IT—IT'S BECAUSE I SUDDENLY ATTACKED HER... SHE MUST BE FRIGHTENED OUT OF HER MIND...

THAT'S GREAT! HAVING YOU WILL HELP A LOT!

BU... BUT EVEN JUST NOW...!

HAVE TO BE SO HARD ON YOURSELF.

YOU... YOU DON'T

AND MADE HER SO SCARED...!

I SUDDENLY ATTACKED HER WITHOUT EVEN LISTENING TO HER SIDE OF THE STORY.

THIS IS TERRIBLE...! I'M THE WORST...!

How long are you going to do this?

たん たん たん

I WRONGLY ASSUMED YOU TWO WERE LOVERS...!

JUST BECAUSE YOU KISSED...

THAT...

AAAAAAHHHHHHHH

GO— GOT IT?

THAT WAS TO GET RID OF HER HEADACHE...

YES... I'M SO SORRY FOR THE CONFUSION...!

She saw it
She saw it
She saw it
She saw it
She saw it

HHHHHHHHHHHH

...THAT'S GREAT. I'VE BEEN SO TORN RECENTLY ABOUT WHETHER I SHOULD TELL AYAKA-SENPAI ABOUT THIS THAT MY STOMACH HAS STARTED HURTING...

HE... HEY, SANA?

BUT IT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING, THERE'S NOTHING GOING ON BETWEEN US, O-OKAY?

It's not like that.

SURE, WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER 24/7 FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS,

JU... JUST MAKING SURE, DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA, ALRIGHT?

Nothing like that at all.

IF I KEEP THINKING ABOUT THIS, MY STOMACH WILL... UGH... NNNNGH...

O-OH NO...!

AND BESIDES, I'VE NEVER SEEN SENPAI ACT LIKE THIS... HUH?

WHY IS HE MAKING EXCUSES LIKE A GRADE-SCHOOLER...? ...HUH?

Huh? Are you listening?

I have no feelings or anything, got it?

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!!!

WAFUUUU!

BRRRRM

JOLT

AYAKA-SENPAI

WHAT KIND OF TWINS TWIN TIMING IS THIS!!!!?

S-S-SORRY, I GOT A CALL...!

HEY, SANÁ-CHAN?

HE... HERRO, I MEAN, HELLO...?

PSYCHIC!? ARE YOU PSYCHIC, SENPAI!!!!!!??

ARE YA WITH KYOICHI-SAN RIGHT NOW?

NO... NO, HE'S NOT HERE... (RIGHT NEXT TO ME)

I—I SHOULDN'T LET HER TALK TO HIM, WITH ALL THAT'S GOING ON RIGHT NOW...

OH... IT HASN'T HAPPENED YET...?

HASN'T HAPPENED YET?

HE'S NOT ANSWERIN' THE PHONE AT ALL! HE PROBABLY JUST LEFT IT AT HOME AGAIN.

I'VE ALREADY DECIDED... WHAT I WANNA MAKE A PRIORITY...

UMMMM... BECAUSE OF SOMETHIN' ELSE... I CAN'T BE WITH HIM RIGHT NOW...

O... OKAY, THEN, CAN YA GIVE HIM A MESSAGE...

IF KYOICHI-SAN SAYS TO COME TO HIM RIGHT NOW...

I'LL...

FUU...

AND...

FOR THAT, I'LL DO ANYTHIN' IT TAKES...

HUH?

BEEP BEEP

WAH!

AYAKAAA, ARE YOU READY?

YEESS!

NO! NO!

WELL, UM, I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE FUN...

? What's going on?

...WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?

A MESSAGE?

AYAKA-SENPAI SAID SHE CAN'T COME TO YOU RIGHT NOW, AND ASKED ME TO GIVE YOU A MESSAGE...

I GOT THIS TEXT AFTER SHE HUNG UP...

Please look after Kyoichir san.

AYAKA ASKED YOU TO RELAY A MESSAGE? WOULDN'T SHE USUALLY JUST COME FLYING TO ME IN PERSON...?

I AGREE...

AND...

Huh? It's heavy?

Why is it heavy!?

Huh?

NO... NOT YET. THEY GOT IN A BIG BRAWL BEFORE,

SO I WANTED TO FIND THE RIGHT OPPORTUNITY TO TELL HER...

UM, DOES AYAKA-SENPAI KNOW ABOUT MISS CAT...?

...I SEE.

HER USUAL TEXTS

Alright, I'll see you in front of the station in two hours.

Okies~ (^o^)/ I'm leaving noooooooww (;;_;)w

THIS... DOESN'T FEEL LIKE HER AT ALL...

RIGHT...?

No emoji

Yeah, no emoji

WELL, I THINK SHE'LL UNDERSTAND IF I JUST EXPLAIN WHAT'S GOING ON... I'LL TRY TO TALK TO HER NEXT TIME.

ANYWAY, NOTHING WILL HAPPEN IF WE DON'T DO ANYTHING...!

WE HAVE TO TALK TO SOMEONE WHO WAS INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT...!

YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WAS INVOLVED...?

.....

YES, I DO...

I'M SO STUPID...

MY SISTER, IMPRISONED UNDERNEATH THE NEKUNI FAMILY HOUSE BECAUSE SHE'S BEEN ACCUSED OF BEING AN ACCOMPLICE...!

.....

WAIT, BUT IF SHE'S IMPRISONED, I DON'T KNOW IF WE CAN SEE HER...

THAT'S RIGHT, SEN-SAN...!

Yeah.

THAT'S RIGHT... I DON'T THINK WE'D BE ALLOWED TO VISIT HER...

HUH? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

OH YEAH, I'M THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY, EVEN IF ONLY IN NAME.

MAYBE I CAN JUST ASK TO SEE HER DIRECTLY...?

I'm so used to sneaking in all the time, I forgot I can just go in normally

I WONDER IF SOMETHING WILL COME UP IF I SEARCH "HOW TO BREAK INTO NEKUNI FAMILY HOUSE" ONLINE?

FREAKING OUT

CALM DOWN!!!

※ NO RESULTS

IF YOU WANT TO LOOK FOR THE CULPRIT,

I DON'T THINK THAT'S A GOOD IDEA...

.....

BUT THERE'S ANOTHER REASON...

Huh? It's light again?

I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'S SEEN YOU TWO TOGETHER...

NO, THAT'S NOT IT.

I. hate th.

IF YOU CAME TO ATTACK JS, THEN THAT MEANS NATSUHO AND I ARE ALSO CONSIDERED ACCOMPLICES N THE MURDER...

YEAH, YOU'RE R.GHT.

I hate this

I hate this

I hate this

I hate this

I WILL TAKE BACK THE HEAD'S AUTHORITY AND POWER FROM YOU...!

WITH GOICHI-SAMA'S PASSING, YOU ARE THE ONE IN THE POSITION OF AUTHORITY, SENPAI.

YOU WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE TO TAKE THE ROLE OF THE CHIEF MOURNER AS WELL...

FUTAYO-SAMA IS MANAGING THE NEKUNI FAMILY AT THE MOMENT...

SO ONCE YOU'RE FOUND, I DON'T THINK YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MOVE AROUND FREELY BECAUSE OF YOUR OBLIGATIONS...

SENPAI?

YE... YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT...

...SO IT'S BEST IF I STAY HIDDEN RIGHT NOW, HUH...

I'd be scared if something actually came up!!

LIKE I SAID, CALM DOWN!!

NEKUNI HOUSE UNDERGROUND LOCK BREAK

SEARCH.

A KEY...

BUT WE'D NEED A KEY TO GET UNDER-GROUND...

WHAT...!?

...I DO KNOW OF A PASSAGE THAT WE CAN TAKE TO GET INSIDE...

Lock blow up.?

Ummm.

Picking.?

WE NEED TO FIND SOMEONE WE CAN TRUST WHO MIGHT HAVE THE KEY...

...SHE'S REALLY WORKED UP BECAUSE SEN-SAN IS IN PRISON. I CAN'T BLAME HER...

HM...

...OH?

I THINK I MIGHT ACTUALLY KNOW SOMEONE...

ス…

……

SISTER...!!

SISTER...

I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE SAFE...!!

BECAJSE OF ME...

YOU'RE ALL ALONE... IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...

I COULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT A POSSIBLE APPROACHING THREAT...

SANA...?

WHY...
WHY COULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN ME WHO WAS CAPTURED...

WHY...
COULDN'T IT...

SANA...

NGH...

HNGH... UGH...

TODAY I HAD SALTED BAKED BARRACUDA, I BELIEVE.

I'M...

I'M SO... SORRY...

...?

THEY'RE DELICIOUS AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR BECAUSE THEY'RE FATTENED.

I MAY BE IN PRISON, BUT I RECEIVE THREE MEALS A DAY.

AND THEY'LL BRING ME A FUTON TO SLEEP ON AT NIGHT.

IT'S SURPRISINGLY COMFORTABLE AND TRANQUIL HERE.

IT'S PRETTY HARD, DOING THIS FOR YOU WHILE KEEPING IT A SECRET.

I HOPE YOU'RE THANKFUL.

!

SIS... TER...

うぇぇ

ナニ...

BUT OF COURSE!

IT'S A NATURALLY GIVEN RIGHT FOR FAMILY TO SEE EACH OTHER!

I WONDERED HOW THEY GOT IN HERE... SO IT WAS YOU.

HEH HEH HEH.

I WAS SHOCKED WHEN I FIRST GOT A CALL THAT SHE WANTED TO SEE YOU IN SECRET...

I REALLY DO WANT TO LET YOU SEE HER... BUT I CAN ONLY DO SO MUCH...

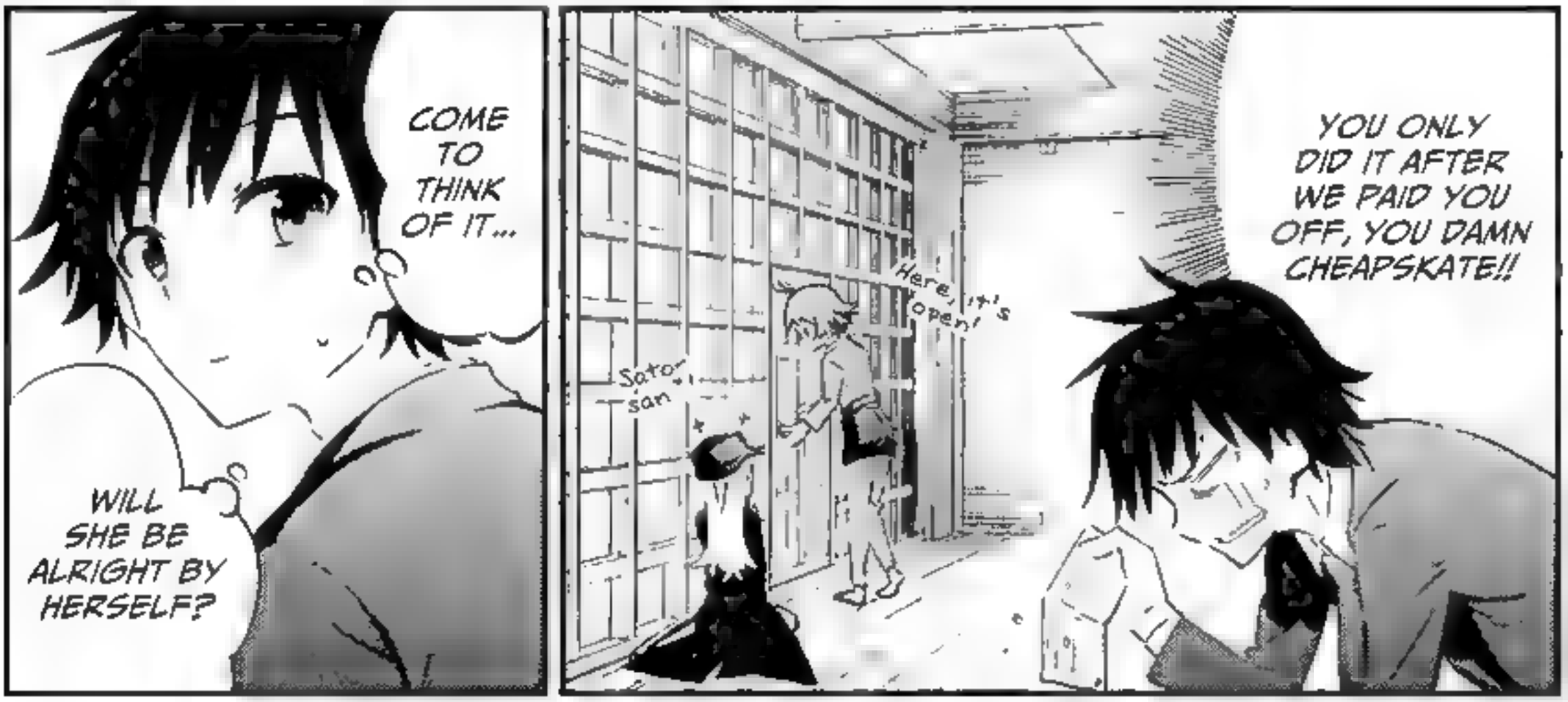
PLEASE, SATO-SAN...

SATO-ZHAAAN...

HOW MUCH IS IT WORTH TO YOU?

.....

PLEASE, I'M ASKING YOU AS WELL. SHE REALLY NEEDS TO TALK TO HER...


COME TO THINK OF IT...
WILL SHE BE ALRIGHT BY HERSELF?
Sato-san...!
Here, it's open!
YOU ONLY DID IT AFTER WE PAID YOU OFF, YOU DAMN CHEAPSKATE!!

ギッシャー

ON STANDBY...

SO YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE CULPRIT, TOGETHER WITH THE HATEFUL CAT...

AND YOU CAME TO ASK ME WHAT HAPPENED...

PLEASE KEEP THIS A SECRET, SERIOUSLY

IF LADY ELDER HEARS OF THIS, IT'LL CREATE QUITE A STIR...

SI.. SISTER...

DID YOU...

UH... UM,

RELAX, SANA.

...I MAY BE IN PRISON, BUT I DID NOT LAY A HAND ON GOICHI-SAMA.

UM,

IT'S EMBARRASSING, BUT MY STRENGTH LEFT ME ALL AT ONCE...

..SISTER...

SANA, WHAT'S WRONG...?

.....

フラ

I'M SORRY...

BUT HEARING THAT STRAIGHT FROM MY SISTER'S MOUTH, I...

I... I'M SORRY... I DON'T HAVE ANY PROOF, AND YET... I...

UM...

BUT THIS IS A SURPRISE. I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE THE DAY WHEN THE DOG CLAN WOULD JOIN FORCES WITH A YOKAI GIRL.

SANA...

WHAT!? PLEASE...!

DO AS YOU PLEASE, SANA.

DON'T WORRY. EITHER WAY, I'LL BE STRIPPED OF MY T TLE AS THE HEAD SOONER OR LATER.

THERE'S ST LL A POSS BILITY THAT THE CAT WAS AN ACCOMPLICE...

BUT I DO AGREE THAT THE CAT DID NOT COMMIT THE MURDER.

...? WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?

PLEASE DON'T...

SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

THERE WAS A SWORD WOUND ON HIS NECK.

THAT IS THE REASON I WAS SUSPECTED TO BEGIN WITH.

BUT I WAS SUSPECTED OF THE MURDER BECAUSE I WAS THE ONLY ONE WIELDING A SWORD IN THE HOUSE.

IT WASN'T A FATAL WOUND,

IT WAS SHALLOW, BUT THERE WAS A SWORD WOUND ON GOICHI-SAMA'S NECK.

I'M SORRY, I NEED TO EXPLAIN BETTER.

...THIS IS CONVENIENT.

THE ONE YOU SAW...?

...BESIDES,

THE ONE I SAW WASN'T A CAT...

THE TEA CHAMBER...?

LUCKILY, SATO-SAN IS HERE AS WELL.

I'LL TELL YOU EVERY-THING THAT TRANSPIRED.

I SEE...

HE SAID HE NEEDED TO THINK ABOUT SOMETHING, AND GAVE STRICT NSTRUCTIONS NOT TO BE DISTJRBED.. NOTHING JNUSUAL.

YES. HE HEADED THERE JUST NOW...

I WILL BE STANDING GUARD HERE.

GOICHI-SAMA, IT'S SEN.

BUT...

IT'S NOT UNUSUAL FOR GOICHI-SAMA TO NOT SAY ANYTHING,

HIS PRESENCE IS UNUSUALLY FAINT.

WHILE I DO SMELL GOICHI-SAMA'S SCENT,

...THIS IS STRANGE.

GOICHI-SAMA,

PLEASE FORGIVE MY RUDENESS.

HE'S NOT THERE?

YOU CAN'T FOLLOW HIM BY HIS SCENT LIKE USUAL?

I'M SORRY, THERE'S A...

STRANGE SCENT, LIKE THAT OF A BEAST, IN THE WAY...

...I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...

LET'S SPLIT UP AND LOOK FOR HIM. I'LL HEAD THAT WAY.

YES, MA'AM!

THERE'S ONLY THE SECOND FLOOR WHERE MIYA-SAMA LIVES ON THIS SIDE OF THE HOUSE...

ME...!?

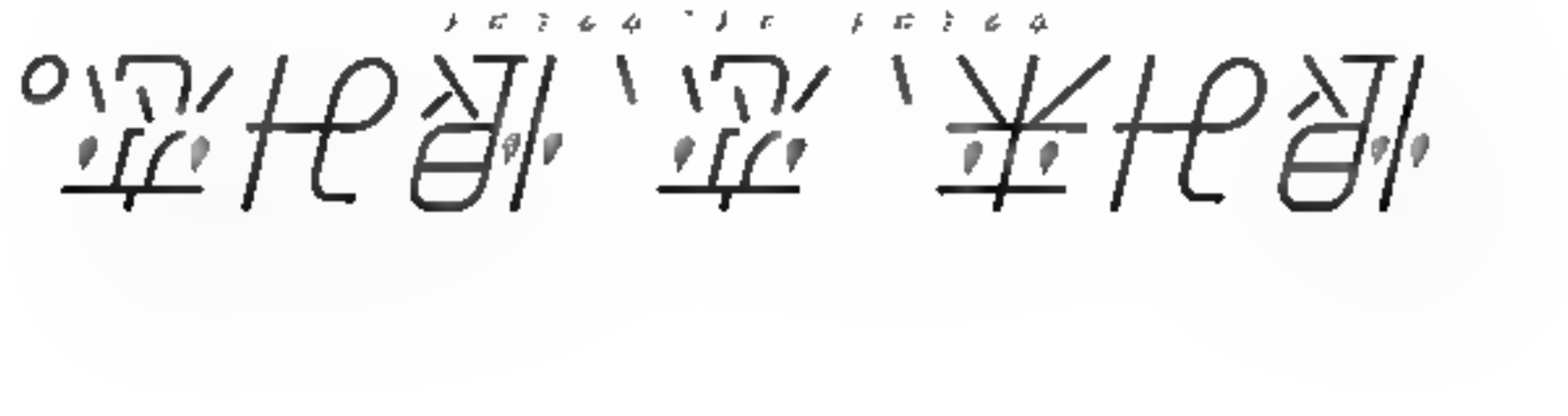
OH?

...

THAT'S TOO BAD.

OH?

NICE DODG—



CHAPTER 8:
WHERE THE CAT GOES, THE DOG WILL FOLLOW

KAH HAH HAHAH!

YOUR NAME ISN'T "SEN" FOR NOTHING.

*"SEN" MEANS "FLASH"

LIKE I SAID...

BUT

KAH...

TOO BAD.

A SAKE BOTTLE!?

.....!

……
I CAN'T... TRACK THE SCENT...
ALCOHOL AND CITRUS...?

SO HE LOOKED LIKE YOU, AND USED SLICING ATTACKS...

I WONDER IF HE'S A TRANSFORMING YOKAI...

I WAS ABLE TO VERIFY THE SAFETY OF MIYA-SAMA...

BUT I WASN'T ABLE TO PURSUE THE ASSAILANT...

IF HE EVEN CAME AFTER MIYA... DOES THAT MEAN HE'S AFTER THE ENTIRE NEKUNI FAMILY?

BUT WHY ISN'T HE COMING AFTER SOMEONE DEFENSELESS LIKE ME?

...

THIS IS JUST A GUESS, BUT...

I want a better boy

I SEE...! HE MIGHT STILL THINK THAT NATSUHO IS STILL RAMPAGING OUT OF CONTROL BECAUSE OF WHAT HE DID TO HER!

COULD IT BE THAT THE CULPRIT STILL THINKS MISS CAT IS STILL AFTER YOU, SENPAI...?

OH, SORRY...! I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU YET...!

OH.

KYOICHI-SAMA, WHAT DO YOU MEAN... RAMPAGING... AFTER WHAT HE DID TO HER...?

AND... IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU KNOW WHO THAT IS.

I ACTUALLY DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HIM EITHER.

AND SHE SAID THAT SOMEONE MADE HER LOSE CONTROL...

THAT CAT'S NAME... IS NATSUHO,

AND... WE ASKED HER... TO... DRAW A PICTURE OF... HIM...

BUT... YOU SEE...

HE ARRIVED AT MY VILLAGE ABOUT A WEEK AGO AND ASKED ME THIS....

LIKE WHERE I COULD SLIP THROUGH THE BARRIER, OR WHERE TO GO ON AN ERRAND FOR HIM...

I ONLY GOT INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIM...

BUT WHY DID YOU AGREE TO HELP SOMEONE SO SUSPICIOUS...?

THAT'S IT...?

...DID SOMETHING HAPPEN...?

THAT'S...

GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH HIS IDENTITY...

HERE, IT'S DONE.

"DO YOU WANT TO SEIZE YOUR ONE AND ONLY CHANCE TO TAKE REVENGE FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR CLAN?"

WH...
WHAT DO YOU THINK...?

A
YO...
KAI...?

HEY GUYS,
IF YOU DON'T LEAVE SOON, YOU'LL BE NOTICED.
Sorry to be a party pooper

WOW... I NEARLY TORE MY STOMACH OPEN LAUGHING, BUT SHE...
UM.. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY, I'M SORRY...
I APOLOGIZE. I DON'T RECOGNIZE ANYONE LIKE THIS...

COME WITH US, SEN-SAN...! IF THE TRUE CULPRIT IS NEVER FOUND, WHO KNOWS WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO YOU!

SEN-SAN...!

...SO SANA,

EVEN IF MY FATE IS UNJUST, I AM ONE WHO SERVES THE NEKJNI FAMILY.

YOU WILL TAKE THE STATUS AND POWER OF THE FAMILY HEAD WITH YOU.

I AM UNDER ORDERS NOT TO MOVE FROM HERE.

DON'T WORRY. ALL WE NEED TO DO IS HOLD HANDS AND PRAY. IT'LL BE OVER QUICKLY.

NO...! BUT SISTER...!

THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT...!

...I'LL NEVER...

I CAN'T BE LIKE YOU, SISTER.

I'M NOT... LIKE YOU... OR MOTHER...

SANA.

SIS-TER...

BUT BECAUSE YOU CAME HERE,

AND TOLD ME THAT YOU'LL CATCH THE CULPRIT, I'M MORE AT EASE NOW.

HUH?

SIS... TER?

UH-UM.

...I KNOW I'M NOT EXPRESSIVE WITH MY EMOTIONS,

BUT I'D BE LYING IF I SAID I'M NOT WORRIED.

EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT REFINED,

YOU'RE HONEST AND HARD-WORKING.

I'M PROUD TO HAVE YOU AS MY SISTER.

I'LL TAKE ON... BOTH THE RESPON-SIBILITY OF THE INUHARA FAMILY...

AND YOUR UNEASINESS... UPON MY SHOULDERS...!!

I UNDER-STAND...

SISTER...

THANK YOU,

SANA.

AND THEY'RE STRONGER WHEN KIDS USE THEM, THAT'S WHY.

YEAH, THE ABILITIES OF THE TWELVE FAMILIES ARE ALL SUPERNATURAL POWERS,

HOW THE HEADS OF THE TWELVE FAMILIES ARE ALL SO YOUNG.

I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WAS MYSTE-RIOUS...

I SEE.

BUT THE DAILY RESPONSI-BILITIES OF THE FAMILIES ARE MOSTLY TAKEN CARE OF BY THE PARENTS.

WELL... KIND OF. THAT'S WHY TEENS ARE CHOSEN TO BE THE HEADS AND FIGHT ON THE FRONT LINES,

LIKE HOW PEOPLE ALWAYS SAY KIDS SEE GHOSTS MORE OFTEN?

PLEASE WAIT FOR ME...

Poof

THANK YOU, SISTER...!

POOF

OH, LOOKS LIKE THEY JUST FINISHED...

FIDGET FIDGET

I WILL MOST DEFI-NITELY... SAVE...

I...

FIDGET FIDGET

GO GO

YOU...

DOG EARS.

DOG EARS!

IM SORRY...

I...

UM...

OF COURSE, I GOT WHAT I ASKED FOR, AFTER ALL.

BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE WAS A SECRET PASSAGE HERE...

THANK YOU, SATO-SAN...!

WELL, THERE ISN'T MUCH I CAN DO,

BUT THIS HOUSE HAS ITS OWN BARRIER.

OF COURSE!

PLEASE LOOK AFTER MIYA...!

SANA-CHAN, OVER HERE.

THERE ISN'T TIME TO TALK!

BARRIER...? THEN DID SENSEI...

SINCE YOU'VE FOUND KYOICHI-SAMA AND STARTED BEING HIS BODYGUARD, YOU SHOULD REPORT TO FUTAYO-SAMA, EVEN IF IT'S JUST A FORMALITY.

ALL SHE CARES ABOUT IS APPEARANCES...

She's such a snob.

SHE WANTS TO AT LEAST GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT SHE'S LOOKING AFTER KYOICHI-SAMA, EVEN IF SHE ACTUALLY HATES HIS GUTS.

...? BODY-GUARD...?

So narrow.

UM... BODY...

?

GRUMBLE GRUMBLE

SERIOUSLY, THAT'D BE SUCH A PAIN.

GRUMBLE GRUMBLE

SO IF WE HADN'T FOUND KYOICHI-SAMA, WE WOULD HAVE HAD TO DO AN ALL-OUT MANHUNT WITH THE PEOPLE IN THE FAMILY AND THE PEOPLE IN THE MAIN HOUSE.

THANKS... BUT...

UM,

UH,

She's not listening, and sounds like she's really having fun.

SO IT'LL BE ALRIGHT!!

BUT I TOLD HER THAT "SANA-CHAN IS GUARDING HIM AT SOME SAFE LOCATION" ALREADY. I'M SO GOOD AT MAKING STUFF UP ON THE SPOT.

This satisfying thrill!

ニヨキ～

BODYGUARD...? ISN'T THAT AYAKA-SENPAI'S JOB...?

HUH...? YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TOLD...?

PHEW... I SHOULD HAVE TRANS-FORMED FROM THE START...

NOW!

So many people

'Ey, you're in my way. Get outta my face.

Aah? A new face, huh, midget.

SORRY, NATSUHO. DID YOU WAIT A LONG TIME?

HEY!

I'm honorable, I won't lay a hand on ya..

I FEEL SO DEFEATED...

PLEASE WAIT, SENPAI...! YOU GOT IT ALL WRONG...!

AH...

LIKE I SAID...! THAT HAPPENED ONLY BECAUSE I'M NOT USED TO IT...

HUH? GOT WHAT WRONG? THAT YOU CAN'T KEEP YOUR EARS FROM APPEARING EVEN WHEN YOU'RE NOT USING YOUR ABILITY?

HM?

WAAAH! STOP! PLEASE, STOP...!

OH? THEN LET'S SEE WHAT'S UNDERNEATH THE HAT!

I SEE... SO YOU COULDN'T FIGURE OUT WHO THAT MAN REALLY WAS...

If you pull out your claws, I'm throwing you on the ground

W... WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG...

...I HATE YOU...

SANA, DO YOU KNOW OF ANY TRANSFORM-ING YOKAI?

HUH?

UMM...

SHE'S SURPRISINGLY TALKATIVE WHEN SHE'S IN HER CAT FORM...

FROM HEARING WHAT OTHERS HAVE SAID, IT SOUNDS LIKE HE'S A YOKAI THAT CAN TRANSFORM AND FOOL HUMANS...

?

BUT I DREW SUCH AN ACCURATE PICTURE THAT CAPTURED ALL HIS FEATURES...

IF WE CONSIDER ANIMALS AS WELL, THERE ARE LOTS OF POSSIBILITIES, WHICH MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO NARROW DOWN..

BUT IT'S NEVER BEEN SEEN IN THIS TOWN...

THE MOST FAMOUS TRANSFORMING YOKAI IS THE TRANSFORMING RACCOON...

IS THAT HE SOMEHOW KNOWS SO MUCH ABOUT THE NEKUNI FAMILY...

...BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT BOTHERS ME

...THEN YOU'RE SAYING HE'S SOMEHOW RELATED TO THE TWELVE FAMILIES...?

BUT NONE OF THE FAMILIES HAVE THE POWER TO TRANSFORM...

CUTTING GOICHI-SAMA'S THROAT TO STOP HIM FROM USING HIS ABILITY,

DISABLING MY SISTER'S NOSE,

KNOWING WHERE YOUR SISTER'S ROOM IS...

...THERE WAS NOTHING THERE...

WAS ALREADY CLEANED UP...

WERE THERE NOTHING THAT LOOKED LIKE EVIDENCE AT THE SCENE?

Stop hitting me

THE SCENE...

THEN I'LL BE TAKING MY LEAVE NOW...

WELL, I AM... BUT ARE YOU SURE?

HUH?

It's really late now...

...SANA, YOU'RE HUNGRY, AREN'T YOU? I'LL MAKE SOMETHING, SO WE CAN EAT HERE.

ALRIGHT THEN.

SHE DOESN'T KNOW...

Poor girl.

I'M IMPRESSED...! YOU CAN COOK, SENPAI...!?

Uh, more or less.

The store is gonna close

I DON'T THINK ANYONE'S AFTER ME, SO IT'S ALRIGHT.

UH--W--WAI...

NO, THAT'S... DANGEROUS... I'LL COME WITH...

Uh--there's something warm on my face? What's this warm thing on my face?!

YOU CAN GO UP TO MY PLACE FIRST.

I'M GONNA RUN AND BUY SOMETHING TO COOK.

!!?

!!?

PLEASE AT LEAST TAKE THIS...

TH... THEN,

P--PLEASE DON'T COMPARE ME TO AN ANIMAL!!

IS THIS A DOG WHI...

A dog whistle?

The Dog clan

A whistle

Only Sana can hear it

IF YOU'RE IN DANGER, PLEASE BLOW THIS. IT'LL EMIT A SOUND ONLY I CAN HEAR...

WHAT'S THIS?

I CAN RUN AFTER HIM RIGHT AWAY...

BUT I ALREADY GAVE HIM THE WHISTLE...

Uuuuuuuu

W... WILL HE REALLY BE ALRIGHT...?

PLEASE LOOK AFTER KYOUHEI SAN.

OH NO!

WAIT, I FEEL LIKE I'VE FORGOTTEN SOMETHING...

I-I-I-I-I CAN'T LET ANYTHING BAD H-H-H-HAPPEN...!

I'm I HAVE TO GO AFTER HIM...!!

A-AYAKA SENPAI'S COUNTING ON ME TO...!

W-
WAH?

WAH IF
ES!??

WAH IF
FOIN'
OH!?

NO!

Um!

THIS...
ISN'T
WHAT
I...

AH!

WAPUU!

...IT'S
OKAY...
BUT...

WHY...

I...
I'M...

I'M SO...
SORRY...

I THOUGHT... MAYBE HE'D LIKE SOME TIME ALONE...

...MAYBE.

...HE—

HE...

LOST... HIS GRAND-FATHER...

BUT BECAUSE OF ME... HE HAD TO... RUN AROUND ALL OVER THE PLACE... SO...

LOSING A FAMILY MEMBER...

IS... HARD...

...YOU REALLY PAY ATTENTION TO HIM, DON'T YOU.

This is awkward

HE'S ALREADY LOST HIS PARENTS, AND ALL HE HAS LEFT IS HIS YOUNGER SISTER...

...SHE'S RIGHT. EVEN IF THEY DIDN'T GET ALONG...

HOURS OF OPERATION NOTICE OF CHANGE-

9:00 20:30

UM... OKAY...!

BUT IF HE DOESN'T COME BACK QUICKLY, WE'RE GOING TO GO LOOK FOR HIM...!

SHE DOESN'T REALIZE IT HERSELF...

I'M NOT PAY... PAYING ATTEN-TION...

PA... PAY...?

Sigh...

I INSISTED SO MUCH ON COMING HERE AND NOW I'M GONNA HAVE TO GO BACK EMPTY-HANDED? I'M GONNA LOOK SO UNCOOL...

SERIOUSLY...! NOWHERE ELSE IS OPEN THIS LATE AT NIGHT...

OH, SO YOU WERE THE ONE WHO KNOCKED THE DOOR DOWN.

...YES.

I THOUGHT YOU'D NOTICE, SATO-SAN...

I'm sorry

I CALLED AN AMBULANCE RIGHT AWAY...

BUT HE PASSED AWAY BEFORE IT GOT HERE...

IT WAS A MIRACLE THAT HE WAS EVEN STILL ALIVE THEN.

I...

SEE...

IT WAS TOO LATE.

THE WOUND ON HIS CHEST WAS TOO DEEP.

HIS BODY WAS MORE OR LESS DEAD ALREADY.

NOTHING WOULD HAVE HELPED.

NO MATTER WHAT YOU DID,

PLEASE DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU.

WEREN'T YOU THE KIND OF PERSON... WHO WOULD NEVER DIE...

WHAT IS THIS FEELING...

わし

わし

.....

...THIS ISN'T HOW I WANTED TO TAKE IT BACK...

HE HATED ME,

AND I'VE HATED HIM SINCE I WAS A LITTLE KID.

I WILL TAKE BACK THE HEAD'S AUTHORITY AND POWER FROM YOU..!

I DON'T HAVE A SINGLE GOOD MEMORY OF HIM...

WITH GOICHI-SAMA'S PASSING, YOU ARE THE ONE IN THE POSITION OF AUTHORITY, SENPAI.

...IF I FIND THE CULPRIT, WHAT WILL I...?

...HE WAS KILLED.

...DAMN IT, I THINK I WAS HERE BEFORE...

I DON'T KNOW...

...I'LL JUST GO BACK AND APOLOGIZE ABOUT THE FOOD...

Will they let me off the hook with our ramen ?

WHAT? SERIOUSLY?

THAT'S A DEAD END.

There are no stores that way

...UM,

UUUH...

THE STORE'S THIS WAY!

YEAH!

HAH.

?

AHAHA- HAHA! WHAT THE HELL?

PFAH!

THIS IS AMAZING! AHAHAHAH!

I SHOULD START WITH A GREETING.

HAAAAH... THERE.

I'M BEING RUDE WHEN YOU WERE ONLY TRY.NG TO BE HELPFUL.

SORRY, DON'T MIND ME...

?

?

WHAT?

GOOD

EVE-

NING.

恨み来、恋、恨み恋。

ウラミコイ　コイ、ウラミコイ

SENPAI... I GAVE HIM THE WHISTLE AS WELL, SO IF HE'S JUST SHOPPING, HE SHOULD BE FINE...

...ナラ

CHAPTER 9:

THE CAT, UNAWARE OF ITS HEART

BUT MISS CAT SEEMS MAD ABOUT SOMETHING...

She's so round.

IS HE WHAT YOU'D CALL A FLIRTER... OR A WOMANIZER...?

IS EVERYONE IN THIS CITY AS SHAMELESS AS HIM...?

Hun? Or is it a flirtizer? Flirtalizer? Fertilizer?

HE SHOULDN'T ACT LIKE THAT, HE'S STILL A STUDENT...

HE GETS ALONG SO WELL WITH GIRLS...

...THAT OX GIRL, AND THAT DOG GIRL...

...I HATE HIM.

UM...

BUT I'VE ALWAYS HATED THE NEKUNI FAMILY ANYWAY...? I DON'T KNOW, THAT'S ALL IT IS, RIGHT...!?

HUH? WHY DO I HATE HIM? HE'S JUST BEING WITH GIRLS.

...!?

I-I'M SO SORRY!!

HUH!?

WAH!

I SHOULD HAVE APOLOGIZED SOONER...!

UH...

UM,

ER...

YOU WERE SO SCARED, RIGHT...?

I SUDDENLY ATTACKED YOU WITH A SWORD...!

HUH?

IF THERE IS ANYTHING I CAN DO TO MAKE IT UP TO YOU...

NO...

NO, IT'S...

I... I UNDER-STOOD WHILE... WE WERE FIGHTING...

THAT YOU WERE TRYING TO SAVE YOUR SISTER...

AND BECAUSE OF THAT... YOU WERE DESPERATE...

SO... UM...

UH...

UM,

UH...

IT'S...

OKAY...

EMBARRASSED

UNLIKE THE VILLAGERS BACK HOME,

I CAN UNDERSTAND HER REASONS AND FEELINGS CLEARLY.

MISS CAT...

SHE'S A GOOD GIRL.

NA...

NATSUHO.

That's my name

NATSUHO-CHAN,

PLEASE CALL ME SANA...!

COME TO THINK OF IT, I NEVER ASKED FOR YOUR NAME.

MY NAME IS SANA. WHAT'S YOURS, MISS CAT...?

SO SHE'S NOT SCARY.

...SA—

YES, PLEASE!

WHA— CA—CA— CALL... YOU...

WHAT?

I'M...

SORRY...

I'VE NEVER... HAD FRIENDS BEFORE...

SO I'VE NEVER CALLED ANYONE... BY THEIR FIRST NAME...

N-NO, IT'S OKAY! YOU DON'T HAVE TO...

WHEN YOU WANT TO, OR WHEN YOU THINK YOU CAN DO IT, IT'S FINE...!

IT'S FINE...!

H-HE'S SO SLOW...!

When's he coming back?

IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN TEN MINUTES YET...

O...

OKAY...

SHE'S SO NICE...

OH, SO IT REALLY WAS A DOG WHISTLE.

WELL, THE ONLY PROBLEM IS... AS A SIDE EFFECT, THE NEARBY DOGS WILL GET ATTRACTED TO IT AS WELL...

THE WHISTLE I GAVE HIM IS SET UP WITH SOMETHING...

SO I DON'T THINK WE NEED TO WORRY...

BY THE WAY, THOSE WOUNDS...

DO THEY STILL HURT...?

L—LIKE I SAID, IT'S... IT'S OKAY...

I'M SO SORRY, THAT WAS MY FAULT TOO...

ALREADY HEA—

THEY'RE

...

THAT'S HOW IT NEEDS TO BE! OTHERWISE, YOU'D JUST TAKE IT OFF.

THAT'S TOO TIGHT...

O—OW!

I REALLY,

REALLY... HATE YOU...

I'M A YOKAI, SO IT'LL HEAL RIGHT AWAY, UNLIKE YOU...

DON'T YOU KNOW ABOUT GERMS? JUST BE QUIET AND LET ME WRAP IT UP.

THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE NEWS TO ME?

AND

HERE.

EH...?

COME ON, GIVE ME YOUR LEFT HAND.

STAY STILL.

...HUMPH.

I'LL TAKE IT OFF FOR YOU LATER,

SO DON'T TAKE IT OFF YOURSELF, GOT IT?

I HATE HIM...

UM...

JUST BECAUSE YOU KISSED... I WRONGLY ASSUMED YOU TWO WERE LOVERS..!

OKAY?

CAN I... ASK YOU A QUESTION?

UM...

WHA!?

I—IF TWO PEOPLE KISS... DOES THAT MAKE THEM LOVERS..?

WAIT, WHAT'S THIS DAY AND AGE? HOW WAS IT LIKE IN THE EDO PERIOD? IF YOU KISSED, YOU'D HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY THEN, I THINK...? WAIT, WHAT PERIOD DO WE LIVE IN? WHAT WAS I THINKING OF?

THAT'S RIGHT, RIGHT? SHE JUST ASKED ME SO CASUALLY THAT IT CAUGHT ME OFF-GUARD AND CONFUSED..!

I... I SEE. THAT'S GOOD...

N—N—NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL IN THIS DAY AND AGE...

WAAAH! WHAT AM I SAYING!!? I HAVE NO EXPERIENCE WITH RELATIONSHIPS, WHAT AM I BABBLING ABOUT!!?

BUT IF THEY SHARE MUTUAL AFFECTION FOR EACH OTHER AND WENT THAT FAR, SOME MAY HOLD THE OPINION THAT THAT WOULD CONFIRM THEIR STATUS AS BEING IN A RELATIONSHIP...

I NEVER... THOUGHT ABOUT ANYTHING LIKE THAT...

UM, WHAT I MEANT WAS...

AFFEC-TION...?

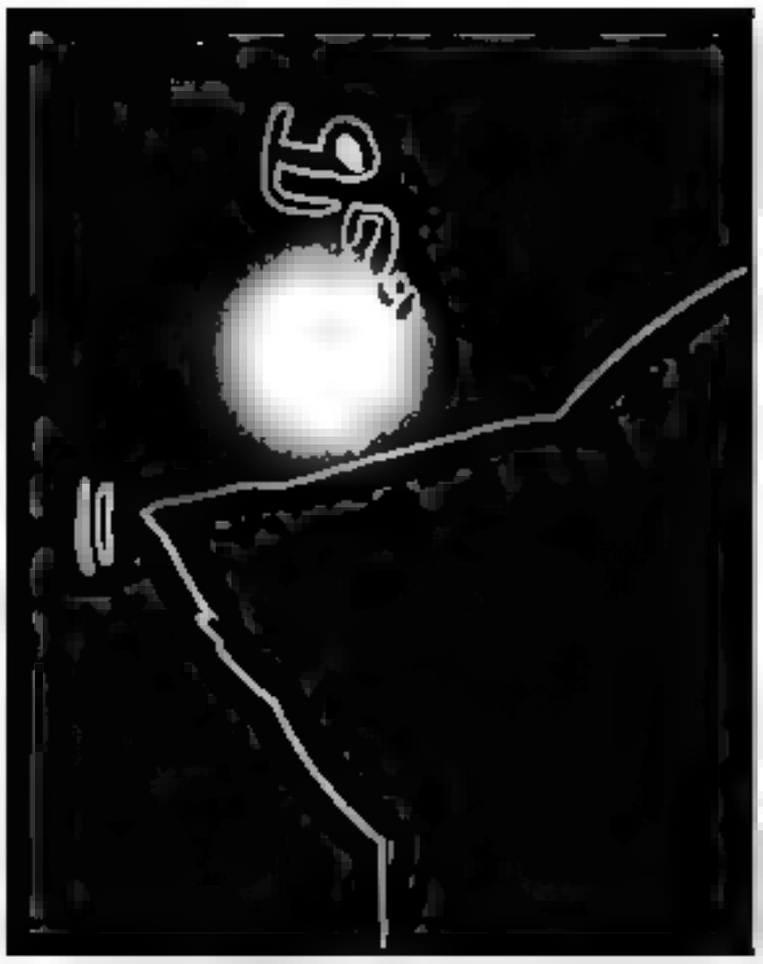
HATED HIM...

AND NOTHING ELSE...

FROM THE BEGINNING, I

ALWAYS

ALWAYS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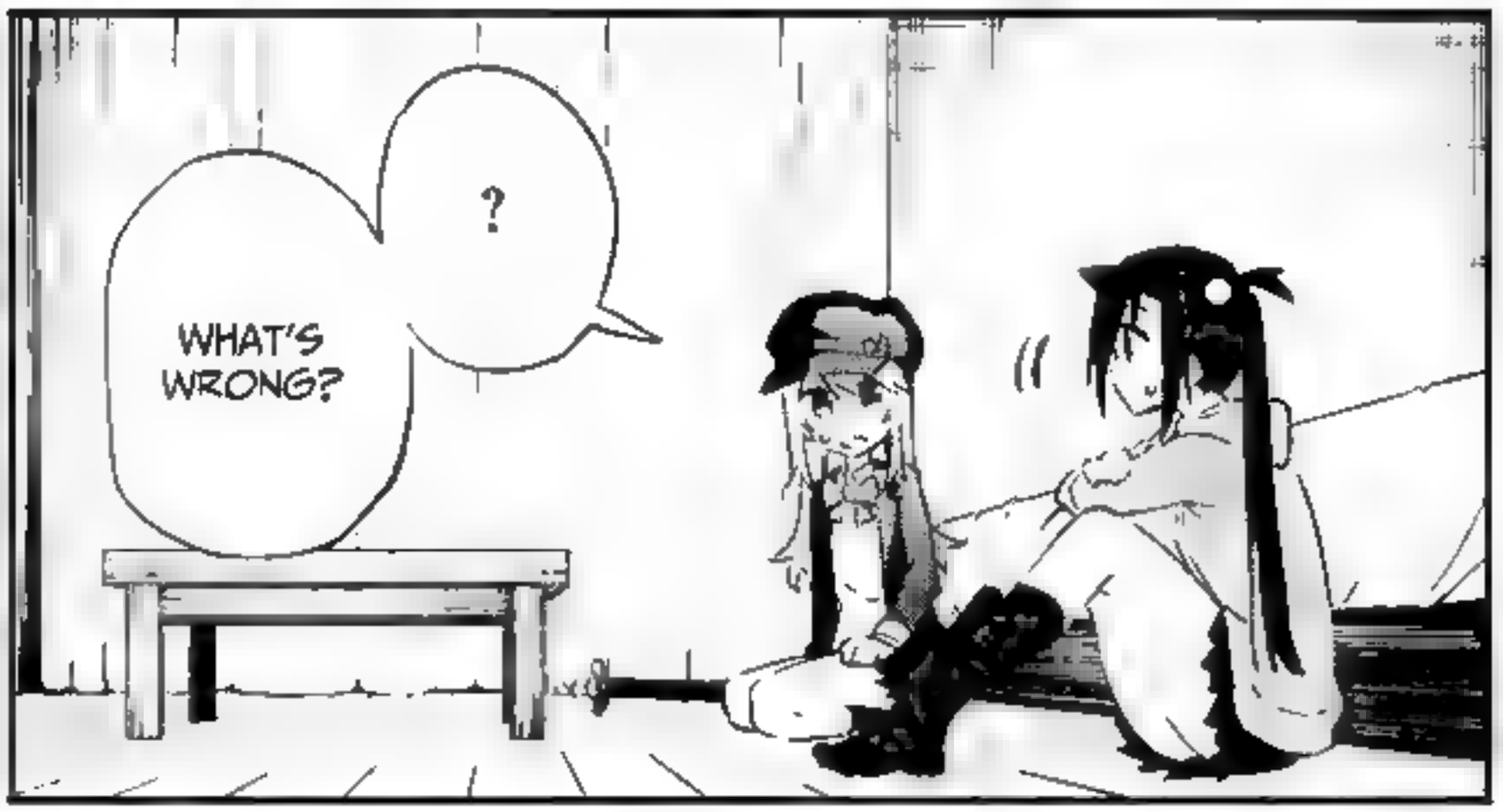
NATSUHO-
CHAN...


WHAT'S
WRONG?
?

NO, I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING FROM IT...

HEY... THAT WHISTLE YOU GAVE HIM, DID YOU...

DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING...?

NATSUHO-CHAN...?

NO...

...I JUST... HAVE A REALLY BAD FEELING...

I DON'T KNOW... BUT... I JUST HAVE A REALLY BAD FEELING...

LIKE SOMETHING... HAPPENED TO HIM...

IS THAT LIKE AN ANIMAL INSTINCT...?

...WELL, IT'S BETTER TO BE SAFE THAN SORRY.

LET'S GET READY TO GO.

BUT IT HASN'T BEEN THAT LONG...

OKAY...

SINCE I MET HIM...

WHEN I WAS IN THE VILLAGE, THE INSIDE OF ME WAS SO QUIET,

BUT ONCE I CAME TO THE TWELVE CITY...

I FEEL SO UNEASY.

I'VE FELT SO UNEASY INSIDE."

あとがき

どうも2巻になりました。
ページの都合により
おまけマンガが
描けなくなったので
あとがきを圧迫してみました。
そういえば今年は未年ですね。
先に未のキャラを出しておけば
お正月に描きやすかったものを…。
反省。

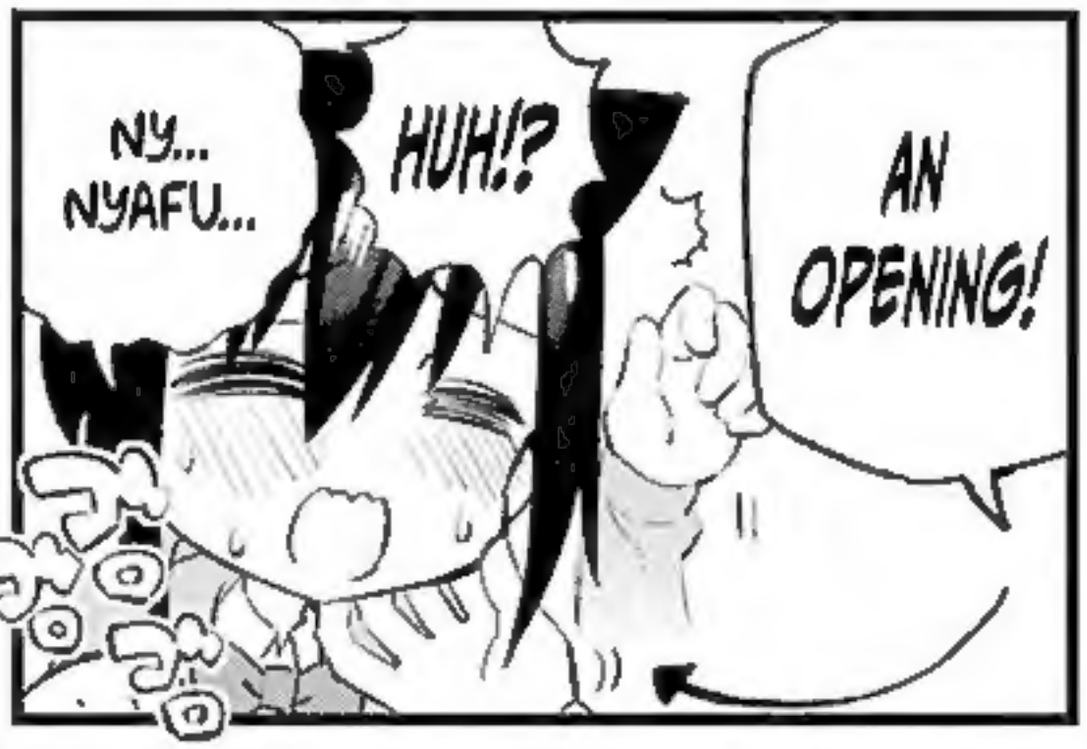
秋乃

スペシャルサンクス

武田ルイ様　担当Y本様
古来歩様　&読者の
臥待始様　皆様方
田部井悠紀様

OMAKE

ONE MORE CAT



予告

負ける気がしねーってのが性分だ

その笛がたった今、何者かに壊されました…！

残念、ワンちゃん

そういうのも初めてで…なんか嬉しいな…って…

それって惚れてるってこと？

なっ…なんかあいつっぽいにおいするから…やだ

何か悲しいことがあったときとかさ

か…買い物…？

俺を殺してみてぇんなら

殺しに来いッ!!!

そういうふうに見えんの…？俺…

「恨み来、恋、恨み恋。」Uramikoi, Koi, Uramikoi. 3

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